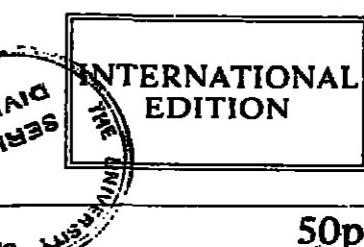


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THE TIMES



No 64,424

SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

50p



A-LEVEL LEADERS

We grade the high achievers among Britain's schools

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VERMIN OF THE GLEN

Deer are eating up the Scottish Highlands

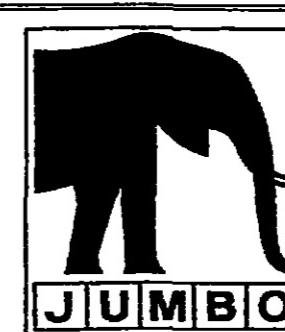
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COUNTRY MATTERS

John Timpson tells of his long love affair with Norfolk

Weekend Times
Page 1



INVEST IN A JUMBO

£50 for the first correct solutions to our crossword

Weekend Times
Page 10

Wind and rain drive Britons overseas

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THOUSANDS of Britons were preparing to flee the country last night to escape a wet and windy August bank holiday. Heathrow airport was expected to handle a record number of passengers, although the AA reported little sign of the usual build-up of traffic on roads leading to British destinations.

More than two million are expect to throng the streets of west London at the Notting Hill carnival, where 10,500 police officers will be on duty or standby during the two-day event which begins tomorrow. Visitors are expected to spend about £12 million on food, drink and souvenirs at the carnival, now second in size only to that of Rio de Janeiro.

The most popular overseas destinations are Paris, Amsterdam, Mediterranean resorts and Florida, where flights have returned to normal after the departure of Hurricane Andrew.

At home, some hoteliers competed to demonstrate the ingenuity with which they could drum up trade to revive the hard-pressed tourism industry in one of the worst years on record. One hotel is offering special weekend hunting breaks with a 25 per cent discount for anyone who finds evidence of the existence of the legendary Durham puma. Another will supply free accommodation to guests who can prove that they more loudly enough to test a new sound-proofing system.

Behind such gimmicks lies the sobering fact that thousands of hotels, guest houses and seaside restaurants are now operating under receivership. Anything is welcome, however bizarre, that might attract a few more guests.

The Redworth Hotel, near

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Saturday Review



Guns continue to devastate Sarajevo

Bosnia deal has failed to set peace deadline

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE London agreements reached by the warring parties in former Yugoslavia were promptly undermined yesterday, when British and United Nations officials admitted that there was no starting time in sight for the 96-hour deadline by which the Bosnian Serbs agreed to place their heavy weapons under UN control.

Yesterday the guns continued to rain death and destruction on Sarajevo, killing at least three people. Cyrus Vance, the UN envoy who will co-chair with Lord Owen the follow-up standing conference in Geneva, said it would be "foolly" to set any deadline for an end to the fighting. "We want to see it stop as soon as we can."

He announced that Marshall Goulding, UN under-secretary-general for peace-

keeping operations, will fly to Bosnia to begin locating the weapons. But until he returned and was able to deploy UN forces, no start could be made to the rounding up of guns and mortars.

Mr Vance also expressed doubts whether Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, had the strength and authority to carry out his commitments. "We have to test it. I can only hope and pray that he will have the authority."

In Sarajevo, a mortar shell hit the presidency building as the two sides expressed bitterness at the outcome of the talks. Stjepan Kacic, a member of the presidency, said the conference was a "catastrophe". Muslim leaders also denounced international diplomacy for supporting cantonisation, which they said would seal the country's division.

Leaders of the UN Protec-

tion Force (Unprofor) said Serbs and Bosnians showed no wish to reach a peaceful settlement. General Hossen Ali Abd El Razik, the Egyptian Unprofor commander, said: "Shelling the city is not a good sign for peace." He thought "both sides want to send a message to the London conference that they don't want to concentrate their heavy weapons".

In London, foreign and defence ministers of the nine-nation Western European Union said they were ready to help the United Nations operation in former Yugoslavia with military, logistical and financial support. They also said they were ready to tighten sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro in the Adriatic and on the Danube. But beyond offering technical assistance to the governments of states along the Danube, they did not promise any new measures to prevent sanctions-breaking.

At present WEU and Nato ships in the Adriatic are monitoring compliance with UN sanctions without authority to stop ships. The meeting yesterday looked at the option of a full naval blockade.

The Italians, currently repre-

senting the WEU presidency, said the WEU would help the UN forces monitor heavy weapons in Bosnia, and individual nations had promised to contribute more troops. But they gave no figures.

Several delegations to the London conference expressed dismay yesterday that there was no threat of military intervention if the Serbs or anyone else broke the agreements. The Turkish foreign minister, Hikmet Cetin, said it was the last chance for a peaceful settlement; if it did not lead to a swift outcome there was no alternative to military intervention.

The Dutch and the French also suggested that force might eventually be used.

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Arguments among the delegations from former Yugoslavia continued yesterday over the documents presented by John Major and Boutros-Ghali, the UN secretary-general. Milan Panic, the prime minister of rump Yugoslavia, said he would demand the resignation of Slobodan Milosevic if the Serbian president did not comply with his peace proposals.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative education minister, said that only more selective schools could improve the position of state schools. "In the past, a lot of state grammar schools would have been near the top. The whole role of public schools has changed in the past 30 years from providing social cachet to delivering the A-

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A pillar of fire rises at Kabul airport round the nose of a Russian Illyushin-76 transport plane, one of three which flew in yesterday to evacuate Russian embassy staff from the beleaguered city. One of 15 rockets fired by the fundamentalist rebels led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar hit the tarmac near the plane, and flaming aviation fuel flowed across the runway as Russian commandos and truck drivers dashed to safety. The evacuation had been planned to

Four Russian soldiers, part of the security contingent that came in on the planes, were badly burnt and two were admitted to Kabul's military hospital.

Sixty-eight diplomats, including the ambassador, Yevgeni Ostromenko, were stranded in Kabul by the destruction of the Illyushin, but the two others were able to fly out more than 100 embassy staff to Moscow.

The evacuation had been planned to

coincide with a Pakistan-proposed ceasefire that never materialised as rockets fired by Hezbollah rebels smashed into the city and airport throughout the day. The Hezbollah attack on the airport began at dawn, targeting both ends of the runway, while rockets struck other areas, including Bala Hissar fort. The 68 members of the Russian mission left behind spent the morning in an airport bunker.

Independent schools dominate A-levels

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE independent sector dominates the comparison of state and private schools' A-level results which appears in *The Times* today. Only five state schools figure in the top 100 places.

Westminster School leads a table of 366 schools and sixth-form colleges. Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, emerges as the top state school 40 places later, ahead of such famous names as Harrow, Charterhouse and Rugby.

Grammar schools accounted for most of the 95 state schools in the league table. Grant-maintained schools filled 23 of the places, but none of the top 100. Hasmonean Boys' High School in Barnet, north London, was the top comprehensive. The ranking provides relief for St Paul's Girls' School, in Hammersmith, west London, which has been at the centre of controversy since the resignation of its headmistress earlier this month. This year's results again make it the leading girls' school.

David Summerscale, Westminster's headmaster, insisted that his 600-strong school, which has a mixed sixth form, was not an "academic hot-house". He said: "The pupils have done as well as they have without feeling every hour of every day, that they have exams pushed down their throats." The gulf between

state and private schools at the top of the league table continues throughout the survey. The overall pass rate in the top three A-level grades was 46.4 per cent, but the independent schools' own results, more than 500 of which were published for the first time yesterday, show that two-thirds of subject entries reached the score commonly regarded as a passport to university.

Ann Taylor, Labour's spokeswoman on education, said that the contrast between the sectors reflected the government's treatment of state education. "I find all league tables invidious, but this just demonstrates the importance of class sizes and the resources available to independent schools. If the government wants to produce the same results in state schools, it must give them more resources."

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative education minister, said that only more selective schools could improve the position of state schools. "In the past, a lot of state grammar schools would have been near the top. The whole role of public schools has changed in the past 30 years from providing social cachet to delivering the A-

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been forced to prop up their currencies throughout the week. The strength of mark, a reflection of Germany's tight monetary policy, has been the main cause of tension. The lira was last night pinned to its absolute ERM floor. The pound ended the week around a pfennig from its lower limit of DM2.7780 at DM2.7895, down a fraction on the day.

Mr Lamont, who requested the statement after telephoning his counterparts and central bankers across Europe, welcomed it as "clear and unequivocal", saying it demonstrated the willingness of Britain's partners to "co-operate intensively to maintain stability in the financial markets".

Commission sources said the statement could be construed as a cynical attempt by Mr Lamont to use the EC as a smokescreen for the government's economic policies, but Treasury officials insisted the announcement had been carefully agreed between all capitals. A French opinion poll to be published in *Le Parisien* today estimated the "no" vote to enacting the Maastricht treaty as 55 per cent. It was the third this week to indicate that the French referendum would reject Maastricht and followed three others which pointed to only a narrow acceptance.

Foreign exchange dealers believe a "no" vote would produce further strains.

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CBI gloomy, page 17

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Shipwrecked gold gives a lifeline to Lloyd's

By BEN MACINTYRE

LLOYD'S of London has found a survivor: a \$1 billion crock of gold buried in the mud and silt of the coast of South Carolina.

As insurance agents count their losses from Hurricane Andrew, an American court has ruled that a group of insurance companies — including Lloyd's — which paid out on a similar hurricane 145 years ago should get a share of the golden cargo that went down with the SS Central America.

Many of the 580 passengers on board the ship, which was sailing from Panama to New York, were miners returning home with their booty from the California gold rush. Four hundred and twenty-five perished when the hurricane struck on September 12, 1857, and the ship went down with at least three tons of gold coins and gold bricks in her hold. Besides the miners' gold, the ship was also carrying gold from California banks to New York in an effort to calm the financial panic of 1857.

The 16 companies that had underwritten the vessel and its contents (including Lloyd's and five other British firms) paid the insurance claims promptly. The speed with which they did so is widely believed to have staved off an economic collapse. Ten years ago, a team of treasure hunters, the Columbus-America Discovery Group, began searching the seabed 160 miles off Charleston, South Carolina, and in 1987 they found the wreck 8,000ft below the surface using robots and high-technology salvage equipment. The team has already extracted more than a ton of gold, including one brick weighing 62lb and thousands of gold pieces. The divers say that it may take

several more years before all the cargo, worth an estimated \$1 billion (£507 million) is brought to the surface.

On Thursday a federal appeals court in Richmond, Virginia, said that a portion of the treasure trove must go to the insurance companies, which filed for a share after sifting through ancient newspaper clippings and company records. A district court had ruled in 1990 that all proceeds from the discovery should go to the salvagers, who have argued that the insurance companies effectively forfeited any claim to the treasure because they made no effort to discover the ship. The salvagers must now decide whether to appeal against the court's verdict, and a lower court will have to assess what proportion of the find should go to the insurers.

The gold recovered so far is being held in a vault at a secret location in Virginia. Other items salvaged from the wreck include passenger's trunks, clothing and children's toys. The Virginia court recorded how newspapers reporting the disaster contained vivid accounts of men flinging down their hard-earned treasure in disgust upon realising their impending doom.

Lloyd's expressed surprise yesterday at the unexpected windfall. "I don't think there's ever been a case quite like this," Martin Leach, a spokesman, said. "It's now a question of finding the descendants of the original insurers or what's left of the original syndicates. There's a lot of paperwork going back 130 years and the legal department is looking into it. Someone is going to be very pleasantly surprised."

Lloyd's victory, page 17

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Swan Hunter and Jaguar cut 2,000 jobs as sales slump

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 2,000 job losses were announced yesterday as the Confederation of British Industry said that economic pessimism among manufacturers had reached its worst level for 15 months.

The car maker Jaguar told unions that 700 jobs would have to be cut from its Midlands-based operations, and Swan Hunter, the warship builder, said that it was shedding more than 1,400 jobs on Tyneside after a rapid slump in orders.

The redundancies were founded on by union leaders, politicians and businessmen as further evidence that Britain's manufacturing industry was spiralling into a fatal decline. The CBI scrapped its forecasts of 2.9 per cent growth in the economy in 1993 in favour of a revised estimate of 0.7 per cent, following a contraction this year of 1 per cent.

Motor manufacturers face a further fall in new car sales after 1991, which was the worst annual slump for 50 years. As Jaguar announced its redundancies, Ford and Vauxhall both said that they were cutting the prices of some models by up to £1,100 in an effort to clear stocks of unwanted models.

Ford, which has introduced short-time working at both its main British plants, and Nissan are saying that new car sales this year will be only about 1.55 million, the lowest since 1982.

Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman, said that if the decline continued, "we will not be able to maintain production at full capacity. The options are short-time working or changing shift patterns. It does not necessarily mean closing plants but nothing is ruled out."

Jaguar, bought by Ford for £1.6 billion in 1989, is looking for volunteers to take redundancy. Union leaders said that the workforce was already down to 8,000 from 12,000 two years ago.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's

chairman, said that the company would have closed already had it not been for the Ford takeover. "We are looking at frightening levels of loss which an independent company could not sustain," he said.

Roger Vaughan, Swan Hunter's joint chief executive, said that redundancies would start at the shipbuilder in December, cutting staff to 2,200. Half of those to go were on short-term contracts.

Swan Hunter has failed to win any of the last batch of orders for Type 23 frigates from the Ministry of Defence. A worldwide search for replacement orders has also failed.

Workers were not surprised at the news, with one leaving the Wallsend yard yesterday saying: "We have been expecting this for the last six months. The workload has dropped right down and morale has been very low."

Dr Vaughan said that the fortunes of shipbuilding were cyclical and added: "Our order book runs through to the end of 1994. However, we must ensure our employment level is in line with that work until new orders are won."

Nick Brown, MP for Newcastle East and a Labour spokesman on the economy, is asking for government aid for the shipbuilding industry. He is worried that the redundancies could signal the collapse of a series of employers on Tyneside.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, publishing Labour's survey of business closures yesterday, said he feared that 50,000 would go under by the end of the year.

"Our latest estimate is that business failures are up more than 20 per cent in the year and companies are now failing at the rate of more than 1,000 a week. In many areas of the country, 200 unemployed men and women are chasing every vacancy on offer."

CBI warning page 17

Soldier shot dead as Ulster's 3,000th victim is mourned

Richard Ford records how horror at sudden death has turned into weary acceptance of its inevitability

quate words to respond to the endless atrocities has become profoundly difficult. The constant repetition of violence has blunted the human response to carnage. Michael Mates, the security minister, did his best yesterday as he recited words that could have come from the lips of any of his predecessors. The killing of the 3,000th victim was "brutal and senseless" and the government and security forces would continue relentlessly to pursue those responsible for terrorist crimes.

Yesterday as the people of Northern Ireland greeted the latest killing with equanimity, two former Northern Ireland ministers remembered a very different reaction to murders at the outset of the present troubles. They recalled the fear and panic that gripped the Roman Catholic community when the first killings occurred and remarked sadly that people in both communities had become immune to death.

Lord Fitt, the former MP for Belfast West, said that after the first killings in August 1969, the Roman Catholic community in parts of Belfast was terrified that it would be the victim of a Loyalist pogrom.

He said: "There was an awful lot of hysteria by people who feared they were going to be murdered in their beds. The people wanted the army brought in to protect them."

Only hours before John Gallagher became the first victim of the troubles, troops were deployed on the streets of the province after the Royal Ulster Constabulary, exhausted by nights of rioting and sectarian attacks, was forced to admit that it could no longer deal with violence in Londonderry and Belfast. The death and disorder was then headline news.

Such is the feeling of déjà vu about the continued killing in the province and Northern Ireland's political difficulties, that those days have long passed. Bombings and killings usually receive perfunctory coverage in the national media and sometimes are ignored.

But for the fact that he was the 3,000th person killed in the troubles and the victim of a feud in a republican group, the death of Hugh McKibben would probably not have received extensive media coverage yesterday. Paddy Devlin, a former minister in the power-sharing executive, said: "Unless it's four or five people being killed, these deaths hardly cause a ripple. We become immunised from the effects of killing and violence."

While John Gallagher was shot dead in 1969 by a member of the security forces, Mr McKibben, a member of the outlawed Irish People's Liberation Organisation, was killed by one-time colleagues in the republican group.

It is a long way from the



McKibben: his number, not his name, will count

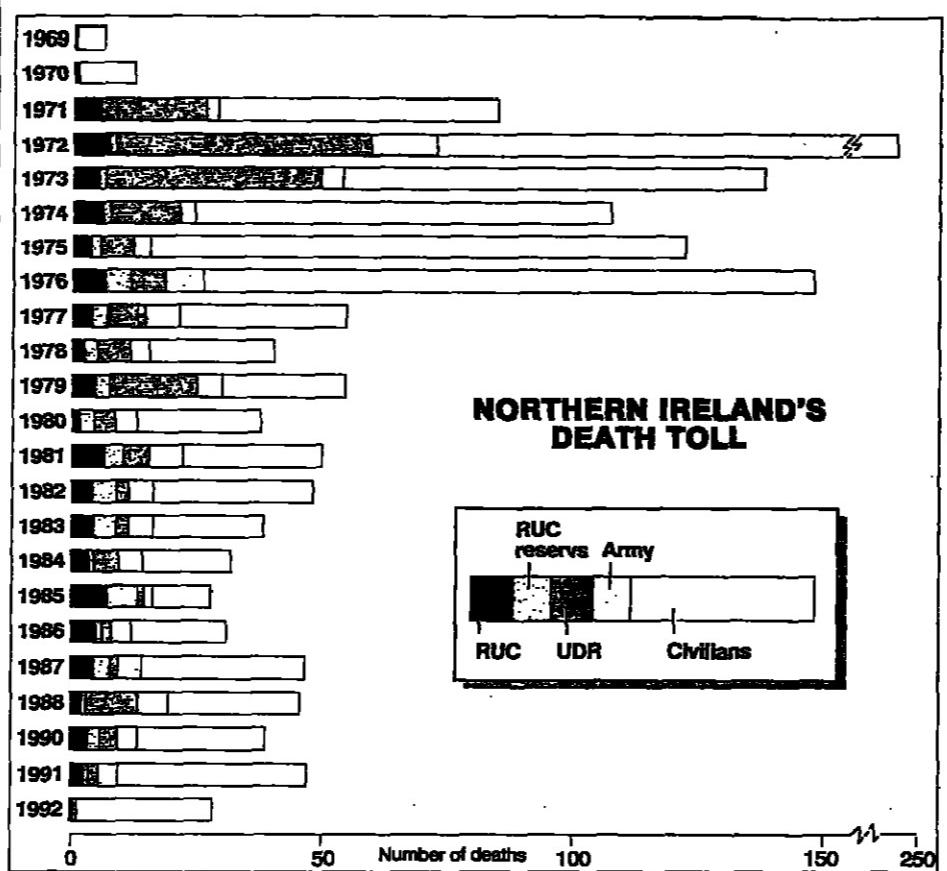
demand for civil rights which spawned the street disturbances that spiralled into violence and paramilitary activity.

Yet while war weariness is said by some observers to have enveloped much of the community, ancient hatreds and enmities remain. On the one hand Ian Paisley, who once threw snowballs at a car carrying the Irish prime minister for talks to Stormont, is now willing to talk to Irish government ministers at Stormont. But two weeks ago, unionist councillors quashed a proposal to hold a joint reception in Belfast city hall for the island of Ireland's two Olympic boxing medallists. They refused to extend an

invitation to the Dublin man who had won a gold medal. Herbert Ditty, the city's Lord Mayor, commented: "I can only go along with things that are British".

The IRA are desperate for the killings to stop, according to Dr Edward Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Londonderry. Dr Daly has been holding meetings with key members of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA. He told BBC Radio Ulster: "What

I do detect and I have no doubt about this, is a desperate anxiety and an urgent anxiety to end this conflict and to bring an end to all the suffering and heartbreak and misery and violence in our community."



SNP plays the Europe card

BY KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party, which saw the number of its MPs cut from five to three at the general election, yesterday launched a four-year plan to strengthen its political, organisational and financial base. After the frustration of the general election results, when the party's vote in-

creased by almost 50 per cent but predicted victories failed to materialise, the Nationalists will issue their first rallying call to the Scottish electorate at their annual conference in Perth next month.

The strategy will attempt to persuade Scots that independence within the European Community offers the best way forward. It will stress the

virtues of independence rather than concentrate exclusively on attacking the Conservatives, a tactic that backfired in April when scaremongering over the dangers of going it alone drove voters back towards the Tory fold.

The party also believes that it should broaden its appeal by trying to encourage voters who back independence, but not the SNP, to realise that the only method of achieving their aim is to vote for the one party that can deliver self-government. Ironically for the Nationalists, there were many voters who admitted to backing the SNP but were fearful of full independence. Those scares were seized upon by the Tories in the weeks prior to April 9.

Party leaders recognise that the election result, despite its disappointment, does create some new opportunities. They will emphasise at every turn Labour's inability to deliver anything for Scotland because it is unelected at Westminster. The party also believes that the decline in the credibility of devolution now brings a straight choice between independence and the union with England. During the last parliament the devolution debate offered Scots an easy option for constitutional change, muddying the argument for independence.

John Swinney, the party's national secretary, said that the four-day conference marked the start of a "process of renewal" that would allow the SNP to deliver independence by winning parliamentary seats and a clear mandate next time.

Oil spill threatens sea birds

AN oil spill in the Shetland Islands was last night threatening sea birds at the Noss National Nature Reserve. The slick of diesel oil was sighted yesterday morning, three miles northwest of the mile-long island, where 7,000 pairs of gannets are nesting.

By mid-afternoon the tide had swept the oil into a three-mile-long slick up to 100 yards wide, spreading around the northern shore of the island of Bressay and south past the Noss gannetry. After surveying the spill from a small boat, Mr Martin Heubeck of Shetland Bird Club said his main concern was for flocks of up to 1,700 eider ducks feeding in the area. The birds are moulting and cannot fly out of the way of the oil. Black guillemots, great skuas and fulmars were also in the area.

Mr Heubeck said it could take several weeks for the oil to kill birds, as they tried to preen it from their feathers.

If the oil had been sprayed with dispersants when first reported, he added, it could have been broken up but it was now "too late to do much about it".

Sheriff coastguards said the slick had been reported to the government's Marine Pollution Control Unit in London. A surveillance helicopter chartered by Shetland Islands Council was not available to spray the oil yesterday.

An informed source in Lerwick

said Russian fish-factory ships had been refuelling north of Noss on Thursday.

Detective Inspector Rodney Archer, leading police investigations into the incident, said: "This is a case that has very wide implications for women. The attack happened in broad daylight in a public place and involved an abduction at knifepoint. The woman has hardly spoken to us as she is so traumatised. We have to warn other women to be on their guard at all times. At this stage we are not linking it to any other crime."

Ballet strike nears

LONDON CITY BALLET'S new season was in jeopardy last night after a Musicians' Union ballot showed that 75 per cent of the orchestra were in favour of strike action after employment contracts were not renewed for three players. However, a union spokeswoman said: "There is still a chance of reaching an agreement. The management could get in contact." The company almost closed last year in a funding dispute with the Arts Council. The new season was due to open on September 14. In June, the London City Ballet wrote to three musicians to say their contracts would not be renewed. Management sent new contracts to the other players without a union agreement being signed.

Paddington Bear stolen

Paddington Bear, right, which welcomes passengers to Paddington station, west London, was stolen from its glass display case yesterday. Five youths were arrested and taken to Paddington Green police station. Two have been charged with theft and with criminal damage to the display case. They are due to appear before Marylebone magistrates today. Three others were released without charge.

Pesticide deaths fall

Fewer birds of prey and animals are being poisoned by pesticides but farm chemicals still kill dogs, cats, badgers, honey bees and rare birds, said a government report yesterday. Agriculture ministry inspectors investigated 752 suspected poisoning cases last year and found a positive link with pesticides in 199, compared to 223 the previous year. Twenty-eight birds of prey, including a golden eagle, red kites and buzzards, died last year after being illegally poisoned. The victims also included at least 67 dogs and 27 cats, and there were 85 cases of honey bee poisoning. There was "a continuing problem of deliberate abuse of pesticides", said the ministry.

Accused, 84, collapses

An 84-year-old man accused of the murder of a 94-year-old woman collapsed in court yesterday and was taken to hospital. The hearing before Portsmouth magistrates was stopped when James Smith began gasping for air. Police later to be in a stable condition and would be held in hospital overnight. Mr Smith, of no fixed abode, is accused of the murder of Emily Evans, whose body was found at the Honeleigh rest home in Southsea, Hampshire, on Thursday night. He was asked on his arrival in court if he could hear his walking stick in front of him.

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Fertility patient is sterilised in blunder by hospital

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE chief executive of a London hospital apologised yesterday to a 25-year-old woman who had been admitted for a fertility operation and was sterilised by mistake. An independent enquiry has been launched at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead to find out exactly how the error happened. It is thought that staff involved have been suspended.

John Cooper, chief executive of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, said that the woman was in hospital for gynaecological investigations "and in addition to these investigations was inadvertently sterilised". He expressed great regret and said that surgeons would attempt to reverse the operation.

"All possible steps have been put in hand to reverse the sterilisation procedure. In such cases it is necessary to wait for the tissue to recover from the previous operation before embarking on further surgery," he said.

The success rate for reversing the operation using tubal microsurgery techniques is more than 90 per cent, according to the hospital. However, there is no guarantee that the woman, who has requested anonymity, will gain fertility.

It is believed that the mistake occurred after a secretary misread the handwritten notes of a senior doctor and typed up the wrong instructions for the surgeon performing the operation. The patient, a solicitor's clerk, had been regularly attending the fertility clinic at the hospital until its closure earlier this year.

Dr Ron Pollock, former regional medical officer at Oxford regional health authority, will head the enquiry. The royal colleges are being



Brush salesman who gave away a fortune

A SHY millionaire who had once peddled lavatory brushes, soap and sponges and died in a fire in June was posthumously unmasked in Minehead yesterday as the anonymous benefactor who gave almost £10 million to more than a dozen needy causes in the Somerset seaside resort.

Ivan Leech, 84, lived modestly and carried on selling "household and bathroom products" even after he inherited a fortune from a distant cousin ten years ago. With no fondness for the high life and a pronounced generous streak, he began handing out money to organisations as diverse as the British Field Sports Society (£980,400) and the Cancer Research Campaign (£1,960,000).

The local football team did well too. Mr Leech, a lifelong fan, posted them a cheque for £100,000.

Jim Parsons, his executor,

Ivan Leech: wanted the gifts to remain secret

preserved for posterity. One of his beneficiaries, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which receives almost £1 million, is to name a boat after him. Edward Wake-Walker, a spokesman for the RNLI, said yesterday: "This is fantastic news. We rely on legacies but we have very seldom received a single donation of this size. Mr Leech's son is a lifeboatman so clearly this was a cause close to his heart."

A spokeswoman at Kleeneze in Bristol, which employed Mr Leech, said yesterday: "He had worked for us since 1952. He was a very well-known and popular figure. We had no idea he was so wealthy. It's a complete surprise."

Sue Holland, a cook at the nursing home where he spent his final years, said: "He was a lovely old fellow and nobody would have guessed he was multi-millionaire."

The brush salesman turned millionaire had no fondness for fast living or chasing women. Mr Parsons added: "He would not have liked all this publicity, he wanted the gifts to be a secret. Ivan always gave anonymously and would be a bit cross if he found out he had finally been unmasked as the great benefactor he was."

Just about everyone benefited from his acts of kindness over the years, without the slightest clue who was behind them. He helped all the local sporting organisations — bowls, hockey, rugby and tennis. He had a heart of gold."

Mr Leech died in a fire at a seaside nursing home after he dropped a match in his lap and then attempted to douse the flames with brandy. His name is now set to be recalled yesterday how his old friend had first reacted to the news of the inheritance. "We sat down and had a glass of whisky. Ivan said he was going to spend the money on local people and needy causes," he said.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

'Non' means the end for Mitterrand

"A 'No' victory means the departure of François Mitterrand, whether he wants it or not," said a demoralised

official at the party's headquarters in Rue de Solferino. "The resignation of the government would be pretty much automatic."

On September 20 the French people vote in the referendum to ratify the Maastricht Treaty.

Increasingly likely No vote would throw not only France but the rest of Europe into chaos. Will they do it? Stuart Warr on the mood of France at the crossroads. In The Sunday Times tomorrow.

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Making friends: four-year-old Laura Davies, from Eccles, Greater Manchester, feeds the ducks in a Pittsburgh park with her parents, Les and Fran, after being released from hospital. She will live with her parents and make regular visits to the hospital until she completely recovers from a life-saving liver and bowel transplant 11 weeks ago. The family expects another baby in December

Grade attacks 'Alice in Wonderland' BBC

By MELINDA WITTSOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Grade last night lambasted the BBC with a scathing criticism of its "Alice in Wonderland" market-oriented reforms, obsessive secrecy and "pseudo-Leninist style of management". He said the corporation risked being marginalised out of existence by its own misguided short-term strategy of appeasing politicians with the jargon of commerce instead of culture.

Making it clear that he was speaking as a friend of the BBC and a supporter of its public service ethos, the Channel 4 chief executive told broadcasters and programme makers assembled in Edinburgh for the annual television festival that his

nightmare was that the BBC would irrevocably dismember itself to ensure the continuance of the licence fee only to watch the Government continue to cut its funding each year. "This great institution would become marginalised and all the human misery resulting from all the cuts become sacrifice in vain. It must not be allowed to happen," he said, calling on the governors to fight for a long-term funding formula that eliminated the "all too frequent and debilitating negotiations with Downing Street".

Mr Grade was delivering the MacTaggart lecture and used the opportunity for what was seen as a thinly veiled attack on John Birt, who replaces Sir Michael Checkland next April as director-general. He said the BBC was "haemorrhaging talent"

frustrated by the governors' unwillingness to provide any support for programme makers, particularly when they most needed it. "There is talk inside of the 'pre-emptive cringe' but only privately ... staff are afraid to speak publicly unless every word has been cleared by the BBC thought-police," he said.

He also criticised the governors for demonising BBC talent with ill-conceived internal market reforms before taking a knife to the wasteful bureaucracy at the corporate centre.

"They don't seem to know the difference between core facilities, surplus fat and bureaucratic excess — all being tackled with the same brutal zeal.

"Producer choice", a policy which from next April will force all BBC units, from studio to make-up, to

compete on price and quality against commercial rivals, was a "denial of everything the BBC stands for", Mr Grade said. It would turn programmes into commodities while threatening the existence of whole craft areas, which could devastate programme quality.

Mr Grade also criticised the BBC's new strategy of occupying the "higher ground" with distinctive programmes that are not available on any other channel. He said BBC governors, who have a "low vulgarity threshold and watch precious little television" ignored at their peril the public's desire to be entertained. He also accused the governors of being unrepresentative and called for the creation of a British television commission to oversee the BBC and independent television.

Widowed mother appeals to Saddam

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE widowed mother of the latest Briton to be held in Iraq spoke yesterday of her fears that she would never see him again. Iris Wainwright was talking 24 hours after it emerged in Baghdad that her son, Michael, had been arrested for allegedly crossing Iraq's borders illegally.

Mr Wainwright, 41, was held in May after apparently entering the country without a visa. He is thought to be detained in a police station close to the Iraqi capital.

His mother said: "I am 61 now, at the back of my mind is the fear that I will never see him again and that is a terribly upsetting thought. If he was locked away for years I dare say he would survive, but it would be bound to change him and have a devastating effect on him. I don't know how Michael will cope with being imprisoned in an Iraqi cell. Who knows how someone will react in a position like that? I am just hoping and praying that he is not going to be used as a human shield. That is my greatest fear."

She appealed to President Saddam Hussein to free her son now. "Let him come home. It is his 42nd birthday on Monday and the greatest present we could wish for would be to see him safe and sound again. All the family will be together thinking about him on Monday. We are not church-goers but we can pray in our own way and we will be saying a special prayer for Michael on Monday."

Mrs Wainwright, who lives at Norland Town, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, said they knew nothing of her son's arrest until a letter arrived ten days ago from his cell. "The Foreign Office is keeping in touch with us, but we are a bit in the dark about what is happening. I feel dreadful, that's the worst part, not knowing what is going on. It's terribly frustrating."

**ESCAPE. IS IT
A NEW
FRAGRANCE? OR
A HOLIDAY
COMPETITION?
IT'S BOTH.**

ESCAPE
Calvin Klein
Buy it at Harrods.

Virgin
atlantic
Fly Virgin to Florida.

REIMS & CHATEAU
Stay at Little Palm Island.

Executive cars put to bed in heartbreak hotel

Firms shedding executives cannot afford to let go the cars they leave behind, Kevin Eason reports

and BMW saloons, have all been sent into storage at Storacar's premises at Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

Every time a big company announces cutbacks among its senior managers, Mr Cowen expects a telephone call asking him to look after another car which has lost its unfortunate executive driver.

"The trend has been very much been that when executives go, the car stays within the company," he said yesterday. "With the car market as bad as it is now, it is not in the

interests of companies to try to sell valuable cars such as Jaguars and BMWs. They would not get a decent return on their investment. That is why we have had so many come in lately. They do not cost that much to store and they can be brought out for someone else to use or to be sold when the car market revives."

Jaguar's UK sales have dipped from 3,224 to 2,760 this year. Porsche sales have almost halved. Rolls-Royce's are down from 333 to 228, while Alfa Romeo has slipped

from 2,043 to 1,106 in the first seven months.

Now the unwanted Jaguars and BMWs without an executive to sit behind their steering wheels are lined up alongside some of the most valuable cars in Britain, also being held because of the recession. Over the past two years, Storacar has been used by finance companies which have repossessed exotic Ferraris or Lamborghinis from speculators.

At the height of the boom, investors funded their expensive purchases with big loans in the expectation of easy profits, only for the market for classic cars to collapse. The banks and loan companies which financed the deals discovered that the cars they repossessed could be worth

half their original purchase price. The only answer has been to store them until after the recession in the hope that there will be a revival in prices.

That risk has obviously been considered by owners of the Jaguar XJ220, the latest high-performance car to hit the market. Costing £415,000, the Jaguar is a potentially valuable investment if prices eventually revive. Four owners are understood to have called Storacar to book spaces.

The air-conditioned premises, where cars are carefully polished, serviced and the engines started daily, have been busy lately. There are about 400 cars in store under the watchful eyes of security guards, compared with fewer than half that number before the recession.

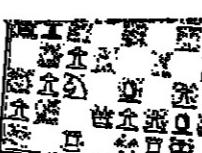
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"Mid Class" with Virgin Atlantic, the award-winning airline, and staying at the Relais and Chateaux "Little Palm Island". Simply purchase a bottle of "Escape" the new fragrance

from Calvin Klein and you can enter the competition to win this luxury weekend. So come along to the Perfumery on the Ground Floor, or visit the Weekend Room on the First Floor. And do remember, Harrods is open from 10am until 6pm this Bank Holiday Monday.

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Map of Little Palm Island showing various landmarks and a boat.

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Solution below

Send your answers to: Times Home News, Central Column, 3rd floor, Times House, 55 Queen Street, London EC4R 1JL. Please include a stamped addressed envelope. Last week's question: What is the name of the new perfume? Answer: "Escape" by Calvin Klein. Last week's winner: Mrs J. C. Smith, 100, Brixton Road, London SW9 5JL.

Researchers discover viruses in victims of chronic fatigue

SCIENTISTS have discovered a link between chronic fatigue syndrome — so-called "yuppie flu" — and the presence in the blood of enteroviruses, members of a group of viruses known to cause disease.

Other studies have shown variations in the electrical behaviour of the brain in patients with the condition. Taken together, the two studies reported at yesterday's session of the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Southampton, suggest that chronic fatigue syndrome is a condition that, in some patients at least, has a physical rather than a psychological cause.

Dr Geoffrey Clements of the Regional Virus Laboratory at



Francis: up to 150,000 afflicted in Britain

Scientists believe that so-called yuppie flu might have a physical cause, reports Nigel Hawkes

Ruchill Hospital in Glasgow said that enterovirus-like fragments previously found in muscle had now also been identified in blood serum. The virus was discovered using the technique of polymerase chain reaction, a means of multiplying short sections of the DNA of the virus. The process enables very small amounts of viral DNA to be detected.

In the blood serum experiments reported yesterday, Dr Clements showed that of 91 patients with chronic fatigue syndrome, 43 per cent (39 patients) were positive for enteroviruses, against only 2.3 per cent of controls. Among acutely ill patients, 20 per cent showed the virus.

The results are insufficiently clear-cut to demonstrate that enteroviruses are the cause of the syndrome, and Dr Clements claimed only to have detected an association. "There are more than 70 types of enterovirus, and they are implicated in many diseases, including polio, carditis and muscle diseases, and skin rashes," he said. Dr Stuart Butler of the

Burden Neurological Institute in Bristol reported on studies of the electrical activity of the brain among sufferers from the syndrome. In particular, he found an abnormal signal produced by sufferers after tests in which they had to detect a stimulus and respond to it. That signal, known as the post-imperative negative variation, was prominent in people with the syndrome and absent in those without it. The study was small, involving 20 patients and 20 controls, but the result was statistically sound.

This particular type of signal is found in other disorders, and so is not a specific marker for chronic fatigue syndrome. But it does suggest that the brain of sufferers is disturbed, as is the brain of patients with certain neurological illnesses and psychiatric disorders with an organic cause.

"In properly selected groups, we are now saying that we have strong evidence that something organic is going on in these patients," Dr Clements said.

Clare Francis, the yachtswoman who has herself suffered from the disease, said that the evidence confirmed that the syndrome, which she calls myalgic encephalomyelitis, or ME, was not a "belief disorder", as some doctors had claimed. She said she thought that up to 150,000 people suffered from the condition at any one time in Britain.



Face to face: Alistair Wallace from Southampton with a royal python, which was taken to the British Association meeting yesterday by Marwell Zoo to give children the chance to handle exotic animals

If you're going to college
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TSB

President attacks training of doctors

By NIGEL HAWKES

EVIDENCE that British research in the clinical sciences was declining in quality should be taken "very seriously", the new president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science said yesterday.

Professor Sir David Weatherall, who has succeeded Sir David Attenborough, said British medical research departments were too small and efforts might need to be concentrated into bigger units. Doctors got no credit for taking research degrees and medical training in the UK took too long, he said.

The time had come to reform Britain's "ossified" medical education system. "It takes far too long to train a doctor in this country," the new president said. "In the US, they do it in half the time."

Sir David commented on evidence made available this week by the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia, which measures the world's output of scientific papers and assesses their quality by counting the number of times they are cited by other scientists. The ISI report suggested a decline in the quality of papers in clinical science. Sir David is himself Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, Oxford.

He said: "Our departments were fine 30-40 years ago, but now clinical research is very sophisticated. Some departments are just a man and a boy, and they are simply not big enough to cope." He accepted that the solution might be to concentrate more of the research effort in fewer, larger departments.

He was critical of the growth of anti-scientific attitudes. "There is a danger in exaggerating the benefits of science," he said. "If those hopes are not realised, it can cause disillusionment, which in turn leads to a situation where the government becomes cautious about the benefits of science. There was evidence of that in the recent health white paper, *The Health of the Nation*, which was all about prevention and not about medical science. The idea that basic science doesn't have anything to offer in curing disease, as opposed to preventing it, is a serious danger to the government support of science."

The week was described as a huge success by Sir David Attenborough, who said that the association had transformed itself in recent years.

Cockroaches blamed for asthma increase

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

COCKROACHES, new crops and the fungus that causes athlete's foot could be the causes of a sharp rise in asthma attacks, particularly among the elderly, the last day of the British Association's meeting in Southampton was told yesterday.

Stephen Holgate, a clinical research professor for the Medical Research Council based at Southampton University, said that air pollution and motor vehicles aggravated the condition today. Modern houses were also airtight, humid, and full of furnishings in which dust mites, claimed to be the biggest cause of asthma, thrived.

But he said new substances

that could trigger inflammation of a susceptible person's lungs had been discovered. They included a protein found in the faeces of European and North American cockroaches. Studies were being launched to identify the extent of those asthma triggers, which include the rape plant and athlete's foot fungus.

John Warner, professor of child health at Southampton University, said the rise in asthma has been accompanied by a growth in products claiming to get rid of allergens. He said proper scientific studies were needed to prove whether they were practical and led to an improvement in the health of the sufferer.

Scientist who ate humble Pi

OF ALL the Englishmen to achieve unpopularity among the French, a Durham mathematician named Shanks must rank highly (Nick Nuttall writes).

In 1937, the Palais de la Découverte in Paris decided to adorn its dome and corridors with 707 wooden figures to mark his achievement in calculating Pi to 707 decimal places. Eight years later, it was discovered that he had the last 180 places wrong, and the monument to his memory had to be pulled down.

"They were forced to start all over again. The English were not very popular," Dr Roger Webster, of Sheffield University, told the British Association meeting in a whimsical

talk tracing mathematicians' obsession with Pi, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

It was an obsession dating as far back as the pharaohs, he said. It had inspired poetry and led to the tombstone of Ludolph van Ceulen, a German, being inscribed with the 35 decimal placings he had calculated in 1610.

William Jones, a Welsh mathematician, was the first to use Pi as the circle symbol in a publication in 1706. Dr Webster said. He told his audience that Johann Dase, an illiterate born in Hamburg last century, was gifted with the remarkable ability to multiply huge numbers correctly without pen or paper. In

1844, when the world record for Pi was 100 decimal places, Dase doubled it, taking two months to perform the feat.

The first electronic calculation was performed on a machine called Eniac, which took 30 hours to take Pi past the 2,000-digit mark.

The record was now held by the Chudnovsky brothers, of New York, who used a computer to push Pi to 2,260,325,000 places, beating the previous record of just over a billion held by a Japanese. "They built their own computer out of spare parts from a mail order service and it is in their apartment in New York," Dr Webster said. "It needs 25 fans to keep it cool."

Thatcher's role in tobacco industry 'a total disgrace'

FIVE leading medical researchers with an interest in respiratory diseases yesterday launched an unprecedented attack on Baroness Thatcher and Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, former head of the Home Civil Service (Nick Nuttall writes).

They described Lady Thatcher's decision to carry our speaking engagements on behalf of the makers of Marlboro cigarettes and her failure to dissociate herself from a reported \$1 million (£500,000) a year job with the firm as "a total disgrace".

John Moxham of King's College School of Medicine, London University, said at the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science that smoking would kill about 500 million people on the planet alive today. In Britain, three out of ten people between the ages of 35 and 69 died from smoking-related disease and worldwide sales of cigarettes were rising.

Professor Moxham said the risks had been known for 40 to 50 years but the government had failed to ban

Tyne, accused the government of colluding with the tobacco industry.

He said the most depressing feature was the way that people of influence were hired by the big tobacco firms to help to avoid bans and "penetrated Third World markets".

"It is why people like Lord Armstrong are on the board of BAT and why Mrs Thatcher has joined Marlboro... it is a scandal," Professor Moxham said. "Just imagine, she was the prime minister who appointed people like Walgrave and the present cabinet who produced a paper on the health of the nation. They acknowledged smoking was the key issue... and she is hired up to promote this product."

He acknowledged that Lady Thatcher had not publicly accepted the Marlboro post. "There has been no denial and there has been no disassociation... we know she has done a number of speaking engagements on their behalf."

There was nobody available to comment at the Thatcher Foundation last night.



Thatcher criticised by medical researchers

tobacco advertising. The government was opposing European Community proposals covering a ban.

Professor Moxham, whose attack was supported by Dr Stephen Holgate and Professor John Warner of Southampton University, Dr James Millidge of Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, and Dr Paul Corris of the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon

Top grammars point the way to selection in state sector

GRAMMAR and other selective schools lived up to their high academic reputation and rigorous entrance standards in the *Times* A-level survey. They accounted for all but one of the state schools achieving an average Universities' Central Council on Admissions score per candidate of more than 20 points.

The top state school in the survey, the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, achieved an average score of 23.2, with 188 grade As and 129 grade Bs awarded to its 186 candidates. Rowland Brown, head teacher, said that the school's 1,140 boys benefited from its "academic momentum". Historically, the Royal Grammar School had had a strong academic tradition, which is not simply a feature of the last year or two. This is reflected in the fact that the last three headmasters, including myself, have been members of the Head Masters Conference, although we are a state school.

The school, which selects 180 pupils from 2,000 applicants each year and whose alumni include the philosopher Roger Scruton, was committed to strength in all areas of the curriculum. Single-sex schools, which accounted for all but two of the top 20 state schools, offered an education sheltered from "the distractions of growing up", he said. The grammar schools' strong showing in the table

Single-sex schools account for 18 of the top 20 state schools, reports Matthew d'Ancona

compared with their fee-paying competitors is sure to encourage grant-maintained comprehensives to seek a "change of character" from the education secretary to allow them to become selective. However, Geoffrey Taylor, deputy head of the Judd School in Tonbridge, Kent, said it was wrong to make sweeping conclusions about different types of school.

"One can't possibly conclude that an individual is better served by one particular system. It would be quite wrong to say that comprehensives are bad at dealing with their own kind of intake. So we don't feel arrogant or complacent about the results." Judd, which achieved an average score of 23.0, including 19 grade As in English, was not an "academic factory" and valued music and drama as much as examination performance.

The top comprehensive in the league table, Hasmonean Boys High School in Barnes, north London, achieved a score of 21.8, only fractionally lower than the three selective



Brown: students thrive on "academic momentum"

schools which trumped it. Rabbi Menachem Roberg, head teacher, said that the high ranking of the voluntary aided Jewish school should encourage other comprehensives to stretch their pupils. "In this country, one of the problems with education is that people are concerned that it's too demanding. But we shouldn't be worried about being over-academic."

This year's league table, in

which 23 grant-maintained schools achieved an Ucas average of 16.0 or more, will also be scrutinised by parents facing ballots next term on opting out of local authority control. Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said improved results followed if a school had better resources.

Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

State schools in bold type

	Pupil Nos	Ucas score avg
Westminster School, London m	143	30.0
Winchester College, Winchester b	127	28.9
St Paul's School, London b	144	28.3
King Edward VI School, Birmingham b	111	27.7
Bradley School, Walsall m	232	27.6
St Paul's Girls' School, London g	106	26.9
Haberdashers' Aske's, Enfield b	150	26.7
Sir William Parkin's, Chertsey g	42	26.2
North London Collegiate, Edgware g	97	25.8
Tonbridge School, Tonbridge b	120	25.5
Haberdashers' Aske's Girls, Enfield g	114	25.3
King's School, Canterbury m	54	25.2
Malvern College, Malvern g	84	25.2
Manchester Grammar School, Manchester b	168	25.2
King's College School, London b	129	25.1
Cheltenham Ladies' College, Cheltenham g	131	25.0
City of London School, London b	116	25.0
King's School, Canterbury m	179	24.7
Ridley College, Abingdon b	128	24.6
Royal Grammar School, Guilford b	124	24.6
Perse School, Cambridge b	68	24.3
Ouseburn School, Chester g	82	24.2
Shoreham School For Girls, Shoreham g	76	24.0
University College School, London b	93	24.0
Eltham College, London m	93	23.8
Fettes College, Edinburgh m	42	23.8
Godolphin & Latymer, London g	95	23.7
St Swithun's School, Winchester g	45	23.7
Brentwood School, Brentwood m	168	23.6
James Allen's Girls' School, London g	83	23.6
Manchester High School for Girls g	102	23.6
Old Palace School, Croydon g	78	23.6
Royal Grammar School, Newcastle-u-T b	137	23.5
City of London Girls, London g	80	23.5
Wycombe High School, High Wycombe g	24	23.5
Gulbenkian High, East Guisborough g	47	23.4
St Albans High School, St Albans b	58	23.4
Badminton School, Bristol g	45	23.3
Brighton & Hove, Brighton g	44	23.3
Merchant Taylors' School, Liverpool b	90	23.3
Royal Grammar, High Wycombe b	186	23.2
Shrewsbury School, Shrewsbury b	110	23.0
The Judd School, Cheltenham, Gloucester b	86	23.0
Coleg Gwent, Newport, Monmouthshire b	122	23.0
Apleyton College, York b	159	23.0
Harrow School, Harrow b	120	23.0
Loughborough High School, Loughborough g	77	23.0
Magnolia College, Oxford b	88	23.0
Perse School for Girls, Cambridge g	85	23.0
Portsmouth High, Portsmouth g	45	23.0
Walthamstow School, Walthamstow m	120	23.0
Leeds Girls' High, Leeds g	87	22.9
Oundle School, Peterborough m	201	22.9
Abbey School, Reading g	94	22.8
Dulwich College, London b	197	22.8
Hampton School, Hampton b	121	22.8
St Mary's School, St. Asaph g	171	22.8
Concord Grammar, Wellington m	171	22.7
Lady Eleanor Holles School, Cheltenham g	67	22.7
Notting Hill & Ealing High, London g	87	22.7
Wimbledon High School, London g	52	22.7
St Catherine's School, Guildford g	84	22.7
Leeds Grammar School m Ind	104	22.1
King Edward VII, Coventry m	56	22.1
Red Maids' School, Bristol g	58	22.1
Cranleigh School, Cranleigh m	128	22.1
Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood g	116	22.0
Monmouth School, Monmouth b	78	22.0
Roxburghe School, Brighton g	71	22.0
South Hampstead High, London g	71	22.0
Skipper's Girls' High School, North Yorks g	58	21.8
Epsom College, Epsom m	49	21.8
Harroway Boys' School, Barnet b	110	21.8
Ablington School, Ablington b	108	21.8
St Edmund's School, Bristol m	75	21.8
St Leonards-Mayfield, Mayfield g	116	21.8
Marlborough College, Marlborough m	117	21.7
Tremt College, Nottingham m	130	21.7
Brenton School, Bolton b	120	21.6
Bolton School (Boys), Bolton b	100	21.6
Repton School, Derby m	123	21.6
Sherborne School, Sherborne b	131	21.3
Loughborough Grammar, Loughborough b	98	21.3
Magdalene School, Eton b	75	21.3
St Helen & St Katherine, Abingdon g	100	21.3
Stockport Grammar, Stockport m	119	21.3
Tremt College, Nottingham m	130	21.3
Brenton School, Blandford m	74	21.2
Carden Newlands, Newcastle-upon-Tyne g	76	21.1
Headcorn School, Oxfordshire b	80	21.1
Rugby School, Rugby m	176	21.1
Peter's Grammar School, Cheltenham GM m	144	21.0
Kendrick School, Reading g	67	21.0
Newmarket Wood, Colchester GM g	98	21.0
Newmarket School, Colchester London g	105	21.0
Chelmsford County High, Girls, Essex GM g	120	21.0
Downside School, Bath m	40	21.0
Harrogate Ladies' College, Harrogate g	21	21.0
Merchant Taylors' Girls, Liverpool g	42	21.0
Queen Margaret's School, York g	68	20.9
Huntingdon School, York m	56	20.9
Berkeley School, Gloucester g	95	20.9
Christ's Hospital, Horsham m	144	20.8
Harrow School, Harrow m	113	20.8
Nottingham High, Girls, Nottingham g	90	20.8
Shrewsbury High School, Shrewsbury g	97	20.8
Croydon High School, Croydon g	100	20.8
Royal Grammar School, Worcester b	130	20.8
Malvern College, Malvern b	94	20.8
Wolverhampton Grammar, Wolverhampton m	94	20.8

How table measures the results

TODAY'S league table of top independent and state schools is the first time that the A-level results of the two sectors have been compared systematically. It integrates a survey of more than 200 state schools by *The Times* with information published yesterday by the independent Schools Information Service.

The intention of the table is not to label schools as good, better and best, but to measure their relative academic performance in the "gold standard" examination, using the scoring system of the Universities' Central Council for Admissions (Ucas).

Ten points were awarded for a grade A, 8 for a B, 6 for a C, 4 for a D and 2 for an E. Extra points were awarded for AS marks, ranging from 5 for an A to 1 for an E. General studies was excluded to ensure consistency with the independent schools and only schools with 40 or more candidates were listed.

The use of an Ucas points average per candidate was chosen because it took account of the widest band of



Working for success: a sixth form A-level student at St Paul's Girls' School

results, in contrast to other published league tables which have included only A and B grades. Predictably, this tactical decision sparked intense debate among head teachers, who were split on its merits.

Some argued that the system unfairly rewarded those schools which could afford to

enter their candidates for more than three A levels or for additional AS levels, while a few declined to participate in an exercise which they regarded as divisive.

Keith Howard, head teacher of Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, which achieved an average score of

20.0, said that the growing obsession with league tables would disadvantage the state sector.

However, others argued that the use of an Ucas average was sensible since schools would soon have to publish this information under the parent's charter.

	Pupil Nos	Ucas score avg
King Edward VI Camp Hill Boys', Birmingham b	89	20.7
King Edward VI Grammar, Chelmsford GM b	108	20.7
Darvells' School, Devizes m	107	20.6
St Edmund's School, Jersey b	84	20.5
Highgate School, London b	93	20.5
Kent College, Canterbury m	80	20.5
Berkhamsted School, Berkhamsted b	85	20.5
Gresham's School, Holt m	78	20.5
Haberdashers' Monmouth Girls, Monmouth g	82	20.5
Abingdon School, Abingdon b	109	20.5
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar, Blackpool m	109	20.5
Bablake School, Coventry m	103	20.4
Bedford School, Bedford b	141	20.4
Chaddestone School, Chaddesden m	119	20.4
Downe House, Newbury m	90	20.4
East Anglia School, Ipswich g	124	20.4
St Edward's School, Oxford m	55	20.4
High School, Sutton g	158	20.4
Rugby High School, Warwickshire b	78	20.2
St Edmund's School, Birmingham m	97	20.2
Mill Hill School, London m	122	20.2
St John's School, Warwickshire b	143	20.2
St John's School, Cheltenham m	136	20.2
St Olave's School, Reading g	64	20.2
Oratory School, Worcester g	99	20.2
Watfield Girls' High, Watfield g	218	20.1
Mifflin School, Street m	128	20.1
Millfield School, Tiverton g	104	20.1
Alice Ottewell School, Worcester g	56	20.1
Hymers College, Hull m	102	20.1
Ley's School, Cambridge m	94	20.2
Claire Anne's School, Reading g	53	20.2
Regisate Grammar, Regisate m	134	20.2
St Edmund's School, Folkestone m	126	20.2
St Edmund's School, Cheltenham m	46	20.2
King's School, Canterbury m	71	20.1
Latymer Upper School, London b	104	20.1
Tiffin S for Boys, Kingston upon Thames b	117	20.0
King David High School, Liverpool m	48	20.0
Ramsgate School, Ramsgate m	83	20.0
St Edmund's School, Brixton m	75	

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Total Charge for Credit	£1087.28	£2151.20	£1956.50
Total Credit Price	£7592.98	£15,156.20	£14,146.87
Term (months)	24	24	24
OPTIONS			
24 Monthly Payments	£140.16	£286.55	£285.95
APR	13.5%	13.5%	13.5%

BANK LOAN			
Typical Examples	Fiesta 1.1 3Dr	Escort XR3i 3Dr (105 PS)	Sierra 1.8 LX 5Dr
On the Road Price**	£5505.70	£13,005.00	£12,190.37
Deposit (%)	20%	20%	20%
Deposit (£)	£1301.14	£2601.00	£2438.07
Total Charge for Credit	£1881.32	£3760.92	£3525.58
Total Credit Price	£9387.02	£16,765.92	£15,715.96
Term (months)	36	36	36
Barclays Bank Loan 36 Monthly Payments	£236.83	£595.47	£559.82
APR	23.4%	23.4%	23.4%

2. some special edition models and Escort and Cmax models built after 24 August 1992 and registered before 30 September 1992. Programmes based upon reductions to Maximum Retail Price as at 17 August 1992. These Conditional Sale and Options are not available to fleets running 25 vehicles or more. Escort Cosworth and Sierra Cosworth. Commercial vehicles and other categories of business users are not eligible for Options - Maximum Retail Price as at 17 August 1992 plus delivery charges. 12 months road fund licence and estimated cost of number plates and less Ford's special discount reductions. e. Warren Finance and Options covernotes not available on request. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Ford Credit plc, 12 Dave, Bentwood, Essex CM13 3AR. Finance is subject to status. Further charges may be subject to mileage and conditions. All rates shown are available until 30 September 1992. Subject to mileage and conditions. The figures are based on the maximum Ford Credit plus special finance programme. The figures are based on the maximum price although customers are free to negotiate dealer discounts as they would on personal HP and cash purchases. Barclays Bank loan figures correct as at 26 August 1992.



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Somali warlords hoard weapons as US airlift begins

TWO United Nations military observers were wounded yesterday, one seriously, when Somali faction fighters attacked their unarmed vehicle in Mogadishu, UN sources said.

Several vehicles converged on the UN car in the southern sector of the divided city, controlled by General Muhammad Farrah Aideed, and opened fire. An Egyptian colonel was shot in the chest at close range and after treatment was expected to be evacuated.

The attack coincided with a fresh explosion of violence and looting at Mogadishu port, where relief supplies were being unloaded, and with the United States beginning its airlift of food to the Somali interior with flights from Kenya to Belet Huen.

Dozens of Somali volunteers rushed to unload 100lb sacks of rice and beans donated by Canada and the European Community from the American military transport planes. Four Hercules planes landed in half-hour intervals on the gravel airstrip in this desert town about 250 miles north of Mogadishu. It was once a prosperous agricultural town on the Shebele river, but now 150,000 people are almost entirely dependent of handouts to survive.

Marine Brigadier-General Frank Libutti, commander of the American "Operation Provide Relief", called the first day's flights a success. "So far, so good," he declared.

The arrival of a Hercules is nothing new in Belet Huen. The International Committee of the Red Cross have been

Feuding groups are taking advantage of international relief operations to acquire sophisticated weaponry, Sam Kiley writes from Belet Huen

flying food on three flights everyday for three months and Save the Children receives regular supplies. "You are the real heroes of this tragedy," General Libutti told Fiona O'Riley, an Irish nurse working for the Save the Children, who has been in Somalia for six months.

Meanwhile, Somalia's feuding warlords, fearful that their supplies of weapons and ammunition may run out, have in the past few weeks sent arms buyers in search of weapons. Senior Western diplomats in Nigeria and Russia

have encountered members of General Aideed's United Somali Congress looking for arms salesmen in an attempt to break the United Nations embargo on the sale of weapons to Somalia.

An attempt by one unnamed faction to buy sophisticated weaponry from Armscorp, the South African arms manufacturer, was foiled by Pretoria, but British-made 84mm anti-tank rocket launchers and ammunition originally supplied to the Kenyan government have found their way to Somalia. The

president, Mohamed Siad Barre, who fled into exile in Nigeria three months ago.

"It seems incredible that anyone is trying to get arms into Somalia," said a Western ambassador in Nairobi. "At the moment there is very little fighting and security is improving, but if more guns go in then it's inevitable that some kind of final assault may be launched. That would add to the catastrophe."

While the United Somali Congress relies on a simple quadrangle of trade to obtain arms, other less powerful groups rely on profits from the importation of khat, the narcotic stimulant consumed by most Somalis males over the age of 12. Osman Hassan Ali, the Congress's "minister for humanitarian affairs", is the adviser to General Aideed.

Another steady flow of money comes from the khat trade. Sixteen light aircraft each day land in the airport west of Mogadishu controlled by General Aideed's forces, each carrying at least \$8,000 worth of the bitter prickle-leaf.

In the north of the city control led by acting President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, General Aideed's arch rival, eight planes land each day. Another eight come in every day to Kismayu, dominated by the Somali Patriotic Front under General Omar Jess once an enemy of both President Barre and General Aideed. The total khat trade is worth at least \$1 million a month, and some experts say that the figure could be nearer to \$5 million.

Letters, page 13



Baghdad may bar UN weapons team

Rabin warns Saddam against Scud attacks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, delivered a thinly veiled warning to Baghdad yesterday that his government will retaliate against Iraqi cities if President Saddam Hussein fires Scud missiles at Israel again.

Speaking in an interview with the *Haaretz* newspaper, Mr Rabin tried to soothe growing fears that Israel could again be dragged into a conflict with Baghdad if the imposition by the West of a "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq brings renewed fighting. During the Gulf war 18 months ago, Israel, under pressure from America to stay

out of the conflict, did not respond when Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at its cities.

Yesterday, Mr Rabin said: "I do not believe that Iraq will fire Scud missiles at Israel. However, if it does, then Israel has a wide variety of means of action which I will not detail publicly." He admitted that his government was deliberately playing down the affair in an effort not to cause panic and hurt the summer tourism industry and the Israeli economy. As a sign of his confidence that the Israeli public will not be exposed to renewed attacks, Mr Rabin said the government had not yet begun its

distribution of new gas masks against the threat of a chemical weapons attack.

Israeli military experts are convinced that Saddam still has as many as 200 Scuds and up to ten mobile launchers. Although Iraq would have no obvious motive in attacking Israel, Moshe Arens, the former defence minister, said this week that the Iraqi leader was notoriously unpredictable.

So far Saddam has not responded to the aerial exclusion zone with anything more lethal than rhetoric. American warplanes policing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq have been dropping leaflets warning Iraqi military commanders stationed south of the 32nd parallel not to switch on their air defence radar systems. The leaflets also urge the Iraqis not to fly in the prohibited area.

The use by the Iraqis of air defence radar systems to locate allied fighters patrolling the skies over southern Iraq would be considered a provocative act, the Pentagon said yesterday. But as scores of allied warplanes enforced the ban, a potential new flashpoint loomed with the expected arrival in Baghdad early next week of a new team of United Nations weapons inspectors.

The Iraqi regime has said that it will forbid the inspectors entry into government ministries and has said since that the ban on its planes in the south may provoke a complete rethink of its willingness to co-operate with the UN in any way. Western officials have hinted strongly that any move to prevent the inspections ordered under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire could result in increased military pressure on Saddam, possibly the bombing of strategic targets in Baghdad.

Western diplomats have done little to hide their disappointment that the election was not held more swiftly after the defeat of the invading Iraqi forces. The last parliament was suspended in 1986 and in the months before Iraq's invasion in August 1990, pro-democracy demonstrations were broken up by police using tear gas.

Western hopes that women might be given the vote as a result of the Gulf war and Western-led liberation have been dashed. The electorate for the 50-seat legislature will be restricted to an estimated 92,000 registered male voters out of a total population of 650,000. Only males over 21 who can trace their ancestry back to 1920 have the franchise.

The trial was closely followed by other north African countries threatened by growing fundamentalist movements. International human rights groups expressed concern that civilians were being tried by a military court. A second trial of more than 100 Tunisian militants is due to end today.

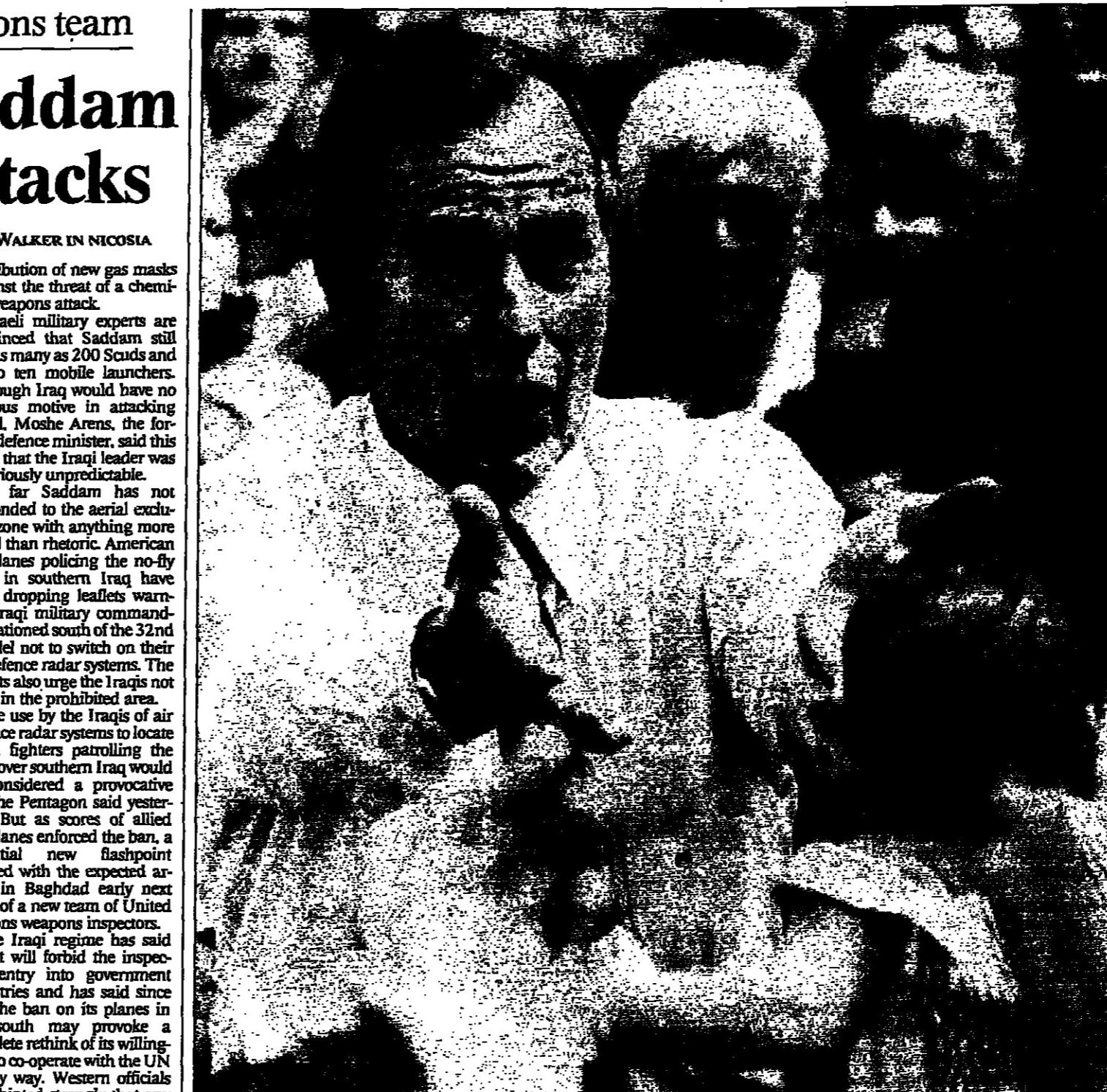
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Campaign joys: President Bush reaching out to Nicholas Fazal, tea weeks, during a Republican rally in Cincinnati, Ohio. The White House said yesterday that Mr Bush had cancelled a weekend break and campaign trips planned for the early part of next week

in order to monitor relief efforts in Florida (Jamie Dettmer writes from Washington). Mr Bush has faced increasing criticism for allegedly responding sluggishly to the recent hurricane, although Andrew Card, the transport secretary, who is heading a federal task force overseeing relief operations in Florida, defended Mr Bush from the attacks yesterday. As the magnitude of the disaster sank in, campaign managers have been quick to realize that more words are needed from the president.

Briton's report led to Pretoria police purge

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A BRITISH expert on policing recommended in a confidential report to the South African government that the general staff of the South African police should be dismantled "like redundant ballistic missiles" as part of the political settlement, it was reported yesterday.

The Johannesburg paper, *Weekly Mail*, said the report by Peter Waddington, director of criminal justice studies at Reading University, was handed to the government a month ago. He was brought to South Africa two months ago

to investigate how the police responded to the Boipatong killings. Herron Kriel, the law and order minister, detailed a reorganisation of the police force on Thursday. Yesterday it was claimed that Mr Kriel's announcement was not so much a rationalisation programme as a positive response by the government to Mr Waddington's report.

• Township toll: A South African human rights group said that 6,200 people had been killed and 11,900 wounded in the past two years of township violence. (Reuters)

China tells Patten not to alter colony deal

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

CHINA has threatened to dissolve the Hong Kong legislature and hold elections when it takes control of the colony in 1997 if Britain tries to introduce more democracy than laid out in the agreed post-handover mini-constitution. In the most explicit warning yet to Britain not to abandon the principle of "convergence" with the Basic Law, Li Ping, the director of the Hong Kong and Macau affairs office, said China was not prepared to discuss any big changes to the political deal agreed in 1990. Mr Lu's statement came as Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, announced he would make his first visit to Peking on October 12 for talks with the Chinese leadership.

Mr Patten has refused to say whether he will try to increase the number of directly elected seats in the 60-member legislature or make other proposals for a faster pace of democratic development when he makes his first key policy speech on October 7. During his China visit, however, he will attempt to break the deadlock over the financing of Hong Kong's costly new airport project.

March for aid

SAN SALVADOR: Hundreds of former army soldiers and guerrillas maimed and blinded in El Salvador's 12-year civil war marched together through the capital to demand a financial and medical aid package. (Reuters)

Bomb alert

LONDON: The Foreign Office advised Britons against travelling to Algeria after a bomb killed nine people and injured 128 at Algiers airport. It told residents Britons to keep away from densely populated areas in the country. (Reuters)

Five told to go

PHNOM PENH: Khmer Rouge guerrillas in eastern Cambodia detained five UN peacekeepers before releasing them with a warning not to return. The five — police officers and two election officials — were stopped on Sunday. (AFP)

Boat seized

SINGAPORE: A stranded Russian fishing vessel, the *Akademik Knipovich*, was seized by court officials in this Fijian port after claims by the crew of 56 crew that they had not been paid since December. (AFP)

Officer taken

NAMIBIA: Soldiers and police have kidnapped El Moctar Incha, the provincial commissioner of Agadez in northeast Niger, after the murder of a police inspector by suspected Tuareg rebels. (AFP)

Tunnel of love

Sydney: A radio station has offered a cash prize and a holiday to the first couple to have intercourse in Sydney's new mad tunnel, which

Oedipus finds himself in the mother of all jams

A Los Angeles writer has taken literary licence literally, writes Ben Macintyre

THEREZZ ILLILI. MOTHER WHERERU? WHEREAT MYDAD! NOCALLZ NEVER HAVENOT ACLU. INNMYND IWNDER WHOAT! IMUST FINDEM.

JO MYWIFE GOES: "OED DONT USEE? WERHAPPY NOW LETTIE?" IGO: "NOWAY. IAMBOSS. DONTU TELLME MYLIFE I NEED MYMOM. II WILL FINDHER FIND BOTHOF THEM."

SOI START SEEKING DATRUTH ABOUT WHO IAM. ITGOEZ ULTRAA SLOWE THE SPHYNX RIDDLE WAS ACINCH BUT NOTTHIZ.

SUDNLIE WEHEAR SHOCKING NEWS. WHEN JWASA TINYI THISGR8 ASEER SED

IWOOD OFF MY ROYAL OLDMAN THEN MARREE MYMAMA SICKO RUBBISH. NESTPAS? WHOHOW COUDRE SOGONE? STIL MOMNDAD SENT MEEEEE AWAY. MEE ABABI AAAYAA.

NOWWWWW GETTHIZ MANY MOONS GOBY. I MEET THISGUY ONATRIP. WEDDO RUMBLE WHOKNEW! ILEFTM POP ONE DEDMAN.

UGET DAROTO. MAJR TSURIS. JOJO MYHONEY. MYSQEEZ. MYLAMBY. MIAMOR. MYCUTE. JOJO IZZ MYMOMMY.

YEGODS WHYMEET YMEYIMME! LIFSUX. IAMBAD. JAMBADD.IMSOBAD. STOPNOW THIS HEDAKE THIS FLESH DUZ STINK ITZ 2MUCH PAYNE 4ONEZ TAKEGOD MYEYES! AIEEEER!

A spokesman for the California Motor Vehicles Bureau said he had not read *Literary License* or *Oedipus Rex*. "I hope he has not found anything, you know, not kosher," he said. "Plates with sex violence in them are illegal."

Johnnie de 150

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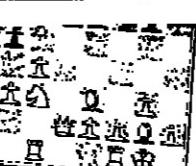
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Solution Detox

Relentless artillery barrage takes toll on spirit of civilians

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SARAJEVO

IN THE Holiday Inn yesterday one of the staff broke down. He screamed, cried out in pain and pleaded that the hotel's lights be turned off to avoid the heavy artillery shells thumping down around the building. His pleas echoed painfully through the hotel's anteroom. His colleagues tried to comfort him.

In most parts of the world the battle for Sarajevo has been described as a war. Here, it is called one of the twentieth century's grossest attempts at mass terrorism. There is little logic in attacks on Sarajevo. The Bosnians fire light mortar. The Serbs reply with shells that scream over the city's buildings at night. There can be only one purpose: to break the resistance of a population suffering from shell shock.

Sarajevo's inhabitants are clinging to what they have. The more they are bombed, the more they cling to the banalities of life. Shock and boredom force them onto the streets only to become victims of snipers who will shoot a child willingly, perhaps more willingly than a soldier. A soldier, after all, would fight back. The suffering here is matched only by the cowardice of these cruel attacks.

Ilijae has a somewhat unusual claim to fame: it is the world's most dangerous suburb, an honour it shares with its sister district, Dobrinja. Both ring the burn-out and desolate no-man's-land which rings the city's airport. Shells thump down on this Serb enclave situated between three Muslim-controlled territories. Snipers work overtime here, picking off people.

In the past three days Ilijae has been the site for some of the heaviest fighting as Bosnian fighters try to lift the siege of their city. The suburb is strategically vital; it carries the road to Split, which, if opened, could bring troops, guns and food to Sarajevo. Checkpoints and landmines are sprinkled along the road: burn-out and rusting cars, lorries and coaches dot the main road out of the city. Yesterday, some of the tower blocks lining the route were still ablaze after the attacks of the past 24 hours.

Karadzic accord could lead to Bosnia peace

under disciplined control and claimed that they would follow the instructions laid down by their political leaders. "I'm a soldier. I will obey my commanders," he said.

Some of his soldiers serving on one of the frontlines around the airport disagreed, saying that they would refuse

to hand back territory to the Bosnian government. "We Serbs have lived here for centuries and we control it now, why should we give it up?" one asked. Regardless of the results of the London conference, these Serbs seem to be playing a waiting game. They control the land and the blockade around Sarajevo is — more or less — complete. The shelling of the city hurts not them but the Bosnian Muslim civilians. They also know that should push come to shove, they could destroy the city at an even faster rate if they chose. "In a very short time we could take a major part of that city," the commander said.

Sarajevo's factions and free lance killers celebrated yesterday the success of the London conference by bombing several areas of the city and the United Nations headquarters. A dozen shells flew past my hotel. As the fighting continued in Sarajevo, Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, said in London that a new even-handedness in the agreement reached there on Thursday could lead to peace.

"It is too early to say if the London conference is going to make a change," said Corrie Thornberry, the senior UN civilian officer in former Yugoslavia. Mr Thornberry was speaking yesterday at a press conference at the UN building in Sarajevo about the London deal. Although information about the shelling and details of the attacks around Sarajevo was well documented, he said, what was lacking was any willingness on the part of those forces to allow UN monitors to observe artillery positions.

The Egyptian general in charge of UN troops here declared that his intention remained to "concentrate heavy weapons in areas to be monitored by the United Nations." There is a concentration of artillery already in Sarajevo, not in UN areas but in Bosnian buildings. The Serb forces seem to have moved from sporadic shelling to planned bombing.

Leading article, page 13

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SSN3

HRTKOVCI, sprawling in the fertile plain of Srem, vividly demonstrates the Yugoslav tragedy. Until a few months ago it had a population of 3,500 with Croats in the majority. Mixed marriages were commonplace. People had lived there peacefully for more than 300 years.

But the arrival three months ago of Vojislav Seselj, the leader of the Serb extreme Radical party, brought an end to harmony. Since then, armed squads of young men, mainly Serb refugees from Croatia, have been terrorising the population, particularly the Croats, ordering them to leave or face death.

Today most Croats have moved out. The few, mainly elderly people who remain are

prayed. The school director said threats to Croat and Hungarian children were received daily.

The Serbs wanted to change the village name to Srbslavci (Serb Glory). The name Hrtković was first registered in the 15th century and appeared on the map in 1714. A professor whose family has lived there for 300 years said: "We do not know whether it is Serb, Croat or even Albanian origin. But for a civilised people at the end of this century, this should be irrelevant. The culture is created on foundations and not on

ETHNIC CLEANSING

An old man pushing a bicycle stopped to say that he had moved into an empty house "temporarily". He did

Croatia had been burned down. He found the local population — Serb, Croat and Hungarian — hostile. "I say hello on the street and they look at me with contempt. No one respects us or helps us. Sibircic is a bit rough but he has been good to us," he said.

Branka, the village hairdresser, is a Croat married to a Serb and both families have lived there for centuries. "Everybody is frightened to talk. We used to live happily together. We could never even imagine that someone will split us apart and that it will become important who is of what nationality," she said.

She is curling the hair of a young woman, Mira, who came from Rijeka, an Adriatic port in Croatia. She is a Serb but she says proudly: "I am different from those in Bosnia. I was brought up on Western



Moment's peace: a family peering round their door in Sarajevo during a break in mortar fire yesterday. At least 45 people died in the city in the previous 24 hours

Peace on paper will not deter Balkan gunmen

The London peace plan is unlikely to succeed because of reluctance to use force to impose it, Roger Boyes, East Europe correspondent, writes

The peace plan for former Yugoslavia worked out in London this week is unlikely to end or even reduce the fighting in the Balkans in the near future. The best that can be hoped for is that a few lives will be saved while the various warring factions realign their political positions and reassess their telescopic sights.

The reason is simple: a "code of conduct" cannot be imposed on a war in motion. It is like trying to teach the rules of cricket to a group of Mafia dons.

The central weakness of the conference was clear from the beginning. Since neither the United States nor the Europeans are prepared to threaten military intervention, there is no way of enforcing the plan. The London conference has not even come up with a mechanism of enforcement. Instead, a Geneva-based standing committee will, according to John Major, "calm, negotiate and pressurise". That has not worked so far.

Some of the problems associated with the London plan stem from this unwillingness to use military force. Others are the result of fluid politics, especially in Serbia, and the practical restraints placed on international organisations acting in domestic conflicts. Here then are the chief stumbling blocks to the implementation of the London plan:

□ The prison camps are to be closed down, but neither the Red Cross nor the United Nations agencies have the resources to take over 150,000 released prisoners. The best that can be done is to transport them to Croatia, which is already overwhelmed with refugees, or to the West. Either way, the international community would then have contributed to "ethnic cleansing".

□ Increasing the UN and armed European presence to protect relief efforts will not have a significant impact until UN officers are given greater individual powers. The impotence of the UN is seen daily in Sarajevo as blue-helmeted soldiers stand by as houses are gunned down.

The UN force not only has to be reinforced but also given a human rights monitoring role. If it hears of an ethnic cleansing operation in progress, it must have the power to intervene.

□ Serbia has agreed to si-



Washington failed to heed Bosnia defender

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

THE State Department's former acting chief of Yugoslav affairs said yesterday he resigned to protest against the lack of US intervention in the former Yugoslavia.

George Kenney said he believed the US should arm Bosnians, provide air cover to stop Serbian air attacks and destroy Serbian heavy weapons. He resigned on Tuesday after four years at the State Department and a month in his latest position.

He said his efforts to convince the department to take a firmer stance against the Serbs' siege of Bosnia were frustrated by an administration that did not want to get involved in the Yugoslav conflict. "The Bosnians are really the poor innocents who got mugged," Mr Kenney said.

"What we could do, what we should do, is arm the Bosnians, allow them to defend themselves, allow them to protect their remaining territory and allow them to try to recover territory which has been forcibly taken from them.

Mr Kenney discounted the results of the two-day peace

conference in London this week which world leaders hailed as a breakthrough in the war which has killed nearly 9,000 people in Bosnia.

"The conference has in effect given the Serbs a green light to finish what they are doing."

He said that in the absence of world sanctions it was doubtful that Serbs would honour the peace agreement or their promise to turn over heavy artillery within a week.

Early reports from Sarajevo showed that warring factions had paid scant attention to the talks and were continuing to exchange fire.

Based on information he received over the past few months, Mr Kenney said there was no doubt in his mind that Serbian forces were responsible for the conflict.

One of Mr Kenney's biggest disagreements with senior officials was their reluctance to consider credible reports by the media and refugees of the situation in Bosnia and their refusal to send in US observers to investigate.

Tragic village bids civilisation goodbye

FROM DESSA TREVISON
IN HRKOVCI, VOLVODINA

HRKOVCI, sprawling in the fertile plain of Srem, vividly demonstrates the Yugoslav tragedy. Until a few months ago it had a population of 3,500 with Croats in the majority. Mixed marriages were commonplace. People had lived there peacefully for more than 300 years.

But the arrival three months ago of Vojislav Seselj, the leader of the Serb extreme Radical party, brought an end to harmony. Since then, armed squads of young men, mainly Serb refugees from Croatia, have been terrorising the population, particularly the Croats, ordering them to leave or face death.

Today most Croats have moved out. The few, mainly elderly people who remain are

ETHNIC CLEANSING

prayed. The school director said threats to Croat and Hungarian children were received daily.

The Serbs wanted to change the village name to Srbslavci (Serb Glory). The name Hrtković was first registered in the 15th century and appeared on the map in 1714. A professor whose family has lived there for 300 years said: "We do not know whether it is Serb, Croat or even Albanian origin. But for a civilised people at the end of this century, this should be irrelevant. The culture is created on

foundations and not on

French rebus
Maastr
size six
FREE
REFI

Clifford Longley

Beware this meeting of fringe Muslim fanatics

A body calling itself the Muslim Parliament will be on the receiving end of much media attention this weekend. It will also be on the sending end. A talent for the tendentious manipulation of public relations has proved this organisation's greatest strength. Its very title is a stroke of genius, forcing even its critics to use a name which makes it sound important. The Muslim Parliament is not in any sense a representative body for Britain's Muslim population. It was founded by an extremist faction whose primary purpose is to obstruct the integration of Muslims into British society. Membership is open for sale. It will not quote a single price, but speaks of "between £150 and £500" per member.

One of its techniques is to lead the press, and hence the public, into believing that the Muslim population is more discontented and extreme than it really is. Unfortunately, some sections of the press and public are all too ready to believe that. To take the Muslim Parliament at face value is to fall into a trap of racial and religious stereotyping, with built-in reinforcement. On this occasion it is a trap deliberately set by the apparent victims of prejudice, for sinister purposes.

The Muslim Parliament is holding its summer meeting at Kensington town hall today and tomorrow. The publicity it receives will all be hostile, ranging from the supercilious distaste of television and the quality papers to the robust hatred of the tabloids. It will stir murky Yugoslav waters, hoping to portray the plight of Bosnia as a Western Christian anti-Islamic plot. And it will portray the British Community Relations Commission in similar terms. A document to be debated at this weekend's meeting says the commission is engaged on behalf of the British government in a conspiracy to divide, rule and oppress the British Muslim community.

Religious paranoia — the view that everybody's hand is turned against British Muslims — is part of the ideology the parliament tries to promote. It is a separatist view of the world, with no shades of grey, in which those who are not Muslims are bound to be against them. There are many factions and frictions among British Muslims. Imagined conspiracies provide an easy alibi for this confusion. Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* is the most famous of these alleged conspiracies, and leaders of the Muslim Parliament describe it as a Zionist-Jewish plot against Islam.

Already the Muslim Parliament's affairs are tinged with anti-Semitism. One of Dr Kafim Siddiqui's lieutenants is Dr James Dickie, a covert Scotsman also known by his Arabic name of Yaqub Zaki, who was recently reported as saying the Nazi Holocaust did not happen and urging Muslims to support David Irving, the neo-Nazi "revisionist" historian.

These are not the views of the majority of Muslims in Britain, according to those who know them best. What the leaders of the Muslim Parliament found most useful about the Rushdie affair was the opportunity it created for fringe fanaticism to gain a foothold in the British Muslim community. In certain circumstances — of which this was one — the competitive advantage goes to the most extreme. If it is having only limited effect in Britain, that may be because the British Muslim community is disorganized and has poor internal communications.

If it is not careful, the British press will make good that deficiency, unwittingly promoting the Muslim Parliament's interests by publicising it as if it were significant and representative. The parliament is the creation of Dr Siddiqui and some of his associates at the so-called Muslim Institute in London. Dr Siddiqui is now the self-appointed mouthpiece of the hardline Shia leaders of Iran, and part of his platform is the denigration of and opposition to Iran's traditional opponent in the Muslim world, Saudi Arabia. Dr Siddiqui was for a while a sub-editor on *The Guardian*, which may be where he acquired his considerable skill as an explorer of the British media.

The Muslim Parliament does not believe in freedom of speech for others, having sworn itself Salman Rushdie's mortal enemy. Hypocritically, it claims that freedom for itself. It may not be enough simply to use the word "parliament" in inverted commas, as some newspapers do, or describe the body as "non-elected". The impression given is still of a body which is more or less what it says it is. The press must learn to apply to the Muslim Parliament the same insightful restraint that it applies in reporting the affairs of, say, the National Front.

Sir Claus Moser's education commission has produced only platitudes so far, says Matthew d'Ancona

In the past few days, more than a million teenagers have received the GCSE and A-level results that will plot their future paths and carve their niches in the educational and professional marketplace. By coincidence, this red letter week for schools also marks the second anniversary of Sir Claus Moser's formidable attack on the British education system. Sir Claus, the distinguished warden of Wadham College, Oxford, then claimed that "hundreds and thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation".

Should this minor milestone be a cause for celebration? Sir Claus's speech to the British Association in August 1990, an impassioned if generalised call for an informed society" and a "Decade of Education", seemed to touch a nerve of anxiety in the British psyche, competing for days with the Gulf crisis in the pages of the press and prompting hundreds of supportive letters.

Within 36 hours, his plea for

Wanted: hype and heresy

A royal commission had been rejected by ministers. But this stance was shrewdly moderated last August by John Major, who sensed a natural ally in the battle for a classics society and so endorsed Sir Claus's unofficial National Commission on Education (NCE). Chaired by the engaging Lord Walton and funded by £1 million from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the commission has toured the country and issued a series of worthy briefing papers, notably on the skills deficit, "value-added" measurement of school performance, and education beyond 16.

All have been respectfully received and politely commented upon. Yet none has made the splash or even the ripples that might have been expected of an enterprise which began with such impetus. Two years after its conception, the national

commission has pretty well risen without trace.

Some have grumbled that commissioners such as Helena Kennedy have a politically correct axe to grind. But the true irony is that within a year of its creation, Sir Claus's trouble-shooting brainchild seems to have become an inward-looking as the education establishment whose mistakes it was set up to correct.

Twice in the past six months, I have listened to senior commissioners explaining the NCE's work to high-powered audiences by taking them through the fine print of its various working groups and committees, as if the medium were the message. But who cares about the internal organisation of a body that will wind up next year? The real question is, what does it all add up to?

Topicality has been the most obvious victim of this loss of vitality. It is fair to stick to a fixed brief and a timetable, provided one keeps an eye on events. Last month's white paper, for instance, proposed a structural revolution to match the reforms of the 1944 Butler Education Act and the comprehensiveisation programme of the 1960s, smoothing the path for all schools to become grammar maintained.

Yet on the key issue of opting out — which is perhaps the most important to face parents since 1945 — the commission has chosen, extraordinarily, to sit on the fence, musing that schools must decide for themselves. This, frankly, is like an ambulance man telling an injured patient to find his own way back to casualty.

Similarly, the commission's latest briefing paper, written by the Oxford educationist A.H. Halsey, fastens promisingly upon the massive expansion of the universities and the vagueness of the government's funding plans, but trails off with the limp admission that "the shape and size of higher education... in AD 2000 are still unclear". With a shrug of the shoulders, Sir Claus's call for a prescriptive vision has given way to descriptive platitudes from all-too-familiar quarters of the education world.

More than any other area of social policy, education requires the kind of creative, independent dissent which interest groups and Downing Street advisers cannot be expected to provide. But the first year's work by the commission illustrates the dilemma that commissions (royal or otherwise) buy as many prob-

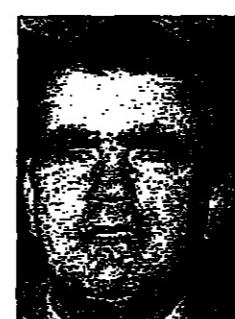
lems as they solve. What is badly needed at a time of radical change is a new blueprint, a common point of reference of the stature of the Pilkington Report or the Black Papers, the two demons which have vied for the soul of British education for more than two decades.

When the first of the five counter-revolutionary Black Papers was published in 1969, Ted Short, Labour's education secretary, described it as "the blackest day in British education for a century". By contrast, the NCE's pronouncements have raised barely a squeak from Whitehall or Westminster. Where is the scare, the hype, the heresy? Picking up the gauntlet cast down at Swanscombe two years ago, Michael Fallon, then the education minister, scoffed that the call for a commission was "the last tired throw of those whose system has already failed us". Sir Claus and his colleagues have until next year's results arrive to prove him wrong and justify the Hamlyn Foundation's million pound generosity.

Getting London streets ahead

Marcus Binney on his designer plan for our ugly thoroughfares

London's major thoroughfares are an architectural disgrace. With a few noble exceptions such as Piccadilly, most give the impression of one of those children's party drawings where everyone has added a bit without seeing what the last person drew. Of course Cromwell Road, Euston Road, Kensington High Street, Notting Hill and even Baker Street have good buildings, sometimes new as well as old, but usually it is



Terry Farrell: the man to redesign the Strand?

exclude, by disdain, any ugly development or gap site. It is on precisely such sites that a sensitive guiding hand is needed when redevelopment comes. English Heritage therefore proposes designating the Strand a conservation area in its entirety, including such landmarks as the Strand Palace Hotel.

Some architects, such as Michael "conservation has gone too far" Manser, former RIBA president, will argue that too much of

London is already protected. Yet since Nicholas Ridley made a bonfire of aesthetic controls, a conservation area is the one place where planning committees can insist on better quality new buildings. Some architects find this gives them leverage against clients whose overriding interest is maximum square footage at minimum price.

Conservation area controls are not enough in themselves to put damaged streets to rights. What is needed is a vision. Not one Haussmann-esque vision for the whole of Central London, but a concerted approach to a number of major streets. This cannot be done by committees. When the orchestra is out of tune, what is needed is a vigorous conductor. And at present Britain is rich in first-class architects who are capable not only of designing good new buildings — adventurous, modern and sensitively contextual — but of acting as master planners and working in unison with other architects on neighbouring sites.

Playing architectural Monopoly, I would hand the Strand to Terry Farrell. With the masterly reconstruction of the grand Victorian railings in front of Char-



Conservation is not enough: we need master planners to guide the redevelopment of ceremonial routes like the Strand

ing Cross station and other nearby improvements, he has already proved that he has the keen eye and robust approach needed. To him could safely be entrusted the vexed questions of whether to allow demolition of Denys Lasdun's 1950s New South Wales House and the mighty but run-down Cecil Hotel (once the largest in London) next to the Savoy, which Shell UK is seeking to replace.

Victoria Street is easy too. The drab department of Trade and Industry, which blights Westminster Abbey, should be replaced by Nicholas Grimshaw's Seville Expo pavilion, its astonishing waterfall facade proclaiming the adventurousness of British architecture. Most of Victoria Street, including the now dated egg-boxes framing Westminster Cathedral could go without many a tear being shed.

But it is likely to remain a modern street and Grimshaw is the man to ensure this is done with panache.

Oxford Street should be assigned to Sir Norman Foster. His design for a new office tower in Frankfurt, in which every third floor has a garden, suggests he could create the 1990s counterpart of mighty Selfridges, in which whole department stores are transparently open to the street on every floor.

Terry Richard Rogers should go to the task of making Tottenham Court Road the crowning waterfall facade proclaiming the adventurousness of British architecture. Most of Victoria Street, including the now dated egg-boxes framing Westminster Cathedral could go without many a tear being shed.

Brompton Road require a subtle hand, but also a masterly replacement for the ghastly grey slab of Bowater House. Michael Hopkins has shown with his de-

signing of the old *Financial Times* building that he can build few poor fronts should be given to John Outram, the one man who can match the intricacy and richness of the Victorians.

Tongue in cheek? Yes, but only partly. Ten years ago, any proposal to see leading architects loose on London's streets would have created a battleground between old and new. But today fewer architects design without regard to context. A series of recent projects, the Royal Academy galleries, the new stand at Lord's cricket ground, additions to the Imperial War Museum and the transformation of Liverpool Street station, shows that architects can work imaginatively with older streets and buildings.

...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

The best slang comes from America, because there are more of them manufacturing the stuff over there and they are less hidebound by obsolete linguistic etiquette. Americans are still the envied models for the world, from Japan to Nigeria, so it is smart to pick up their lingo as well as their music and junk food. We get the slang slightly wrong.

A phrase that is widely coming in commercial and advertising circles, is "where he is coming from", which sounds sick but puzzles the British, who are too shy to ask. This is a phrase from Black American, adopted by trendies, and all it means is what someone means, what he is getting at. Here is a writer called W.T. Tyler: "He doesn't know where this guy is coming from." I think it is just a street slang metaphor, and related to the cognate "where he is at", which means someone's essential nature, current value system, attitudes, and all that stuff. Here's *The New York Times*: "It might make sense in evaluating where you are all at." And *Rolling Stone*: "Everything from Woodie Guthrie to the country blues. That's where I'm at."

It is still showing-off for a Brit to use such phrases. But if she is going to, she should try to use them roughly in their native sense, if she wants to keep her dignity unpricked. Both phrases have hints of Californian psychobabble.

Another piece of American slang that is rolling around

a push to a tumbling wall. This is gratifying, because "wall" is one of the oldest words in our common English language. The pronunciation shows that the Anglo-Saxons had borrowed the word from Latin before they invaded England. They were the only Germanic tribe to take words from Latin, and the words they took before their migration to England retain the more "classical" pronunciation of W, corresponding to the Latin V. The Anglo-Saxons did not have a letter V. Examples are "wall" from the Latin *wallum*, "wine" from *vitis*, and "pillow" from *pubnus*. Later borrowings after the Anglo-Saxons had invaded England and invented V, have a vowel pronunciation instead of the W. For example, "bar" from the Latin *vittus* and "fiddle", the ancestor of our violin and viola, from the Latin *vibula*. Besides having the best walk-on part in the theatre, played by Snout the Tinker, Wall has deep and off-the-wall roots in English.

As usual with slang, it is difficult to pin down the original metaphor in off the wall. But perhaps it comes from the erratic angles at which balls bounce off the wall in such games as squash, rackets, and the American version of fives called handball. It may also have been influenced by the hospital and Army slang of "bounce off the walls", referring to the behaviour of psychotic patients. A phrase that can mean anything from eccentric to out of left field must be used with caution.

Americans are good with wall phrases: relatives are best with a wall between; the wall has ears, the plain has eyes; everyone gives

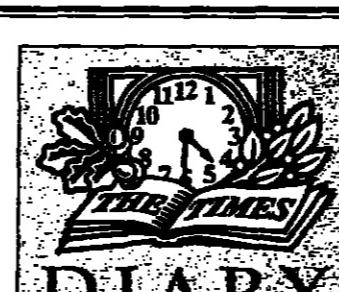
Into the lion's den

THE EC summit at Edinburgh in December — the crowning moment of Britain's presidency — has been hit by division already. The Foreign Office and local authorities in the Edinburgh region have experienced a little local difficulty in agreeing on the summit logo.

The FO, anxious to encourage local involvement, backed an attempt by a consortium of Scottish local authorities to come up with a new mascot to be used on the front of the 200,000 glossy brochures being produced for the event. Now the FO must be wishing it had stuck with Rory the Lion, the British presidential logo which was unveiled by Douglas Hurd earlier this year.

The councils commissioned the Scottish artist Calum Colvin. He produced a cartoon figure with lightbulbs sticking out of his bagpipes and Scottish football club paraphernalia dangling from his sporran, surrounded by graffiti such as "All right Jacques". Only a can of lager was missing from an image designed to strike fear and loathing into the heart of every visiting European leader.

The Foreign Office was privately appalled. Edinburgh council, Lothian regional council and the local chamber of commerce, which helped to fund the design, were deeply divided. The leader of Edinburgh council, Mark Lazarowicz, is a fan. He says: "Tastes differ. It just goes to show there are still some artistic conservatives in Edinburgh. But then they are over 40." Yet the youthful Lazarowicz ended up on the losing side. The city elders have now reluctantly conceded that the illustration "reinforces a stereotyped image". The logo will be replaced instead by a



collage of EC flags, leaving Colvin, who is better known as a sculptor and photographer, quite perplexed: "My work is to do with seeing things differently. If they did not like it, they should not have commissioned me."

And all this before anyone has even mentioned Maastricht.

Shopkeepers who run short of small change in the Russian port of Severomorsk have found a novel solution: they give their customers condoms instead. Newspaper kiosks have started using contraceptives as small change instead of more traditional Russian alternatives such as bus tickets and sweets.

Sting for Woody

DESPITE their reputation as Europe's great lovers, the Italians apparently draw the line at Woody Allen and Soon-Yi. Oreste Leonello, who has dubbed many of Allen's films into Italian, is threatening to refuse to work on his latest, *Husbands and Wives*. And the Italian company La Co-op Norditalia is "re-examining" its \$5 million contract with Allen for a series of commercials, squirmish that the connection might tarnish the corporate image.

Not that Allen should worry. Such is the interest in *Husbands and Wives* generated by his custody battle with the film's co-star Mia

Farrow that TriStar has brought forward the release date. Despite an initial outbreak of nerves on the part of the executives of Japanese-owned TriStar, it now looks as though they have hit the box-office jackpot.

It seems that the Hollywood underworld thinks so too. The FBI is investigating the disappearance of a copy of the film, which they fear is about to make an appearance on the pirate video market.

Cooped up?

READERS of Jilly Cooper will be relieved to hear that she has not been reduced to writing Ladybird-sized books. Cooper, whose racy bestsellers tend to run to 750 pages or more, has been plagued by fans alarmed at tales that the contract for her next book *The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous* stipulates that the book should not exceed 250 pages because of the cost of postage.

Books are sent to retailers in packs of 12, and mine cost a small fortune," she is quoted as saying in an interview with a women's weekly magazine. But Cooper says she is already on page 400 of the new book, and is bairing madly against a deadline. "I think they got it a little bit wrong. The contract states that the book should not run to more than 250,000 words, which is quite different."

• Mick Jagger got little satisfaction at a Richmond video shop when he tried to borrow some tapes. Village Video demanded identification before it would agree to enrol Jagger, whose London house is nearby. Presumably the fit and 50-rock star provided the necessary for the shop, which is reluctant to discuss the incident, confirmed yesterday that Jagger is now the possessor of a membership card. "But he could have been someone trying to look like him," said an employee. "We do get people who come in and give false details."



PRECARIOUS PROGRESS

A deal is done. For John Major that in itself has been a triumph. To bring together leaders of countries and factions that are raining death and destruction upon each other, to sit them together in one room, to wring from them agreement to silence their guns, free their captives, give up conquered territory and negotiate a new way of living together — all that is more than even optimists hoped for from the London Yugoslavia conference.

Sadly it is only another in a series of hesitant starts down what remains an uncertain road. Despair, cynicism and outright condemnation were the prevailing reactions to the conference of the Balkan participants. Fighting rages in Sarajevo, fiercer than ever. There is no good faith and no good sense anywhere in the devastation of former Yugoslavia. The world must now exert more collective pressure on Serbia than it has ever directed against any state short of going to war.

Ending the fighting must be the absolute priority, the litmus test of the agreements' validity. Until the killing stops, neither the peoples of Yugoslavia nor world public opinion will even look at what else was agreed. The factions pledged themselves to a series of specific actions. These included lifting the siege of Sarajevo and the other three Muslim towns, bringing all forces including the irregulars under central control, a ban on direct or indirect military help to the groups fighting in Bosnia, the progressive reduction of arms in the region, and the placing of all heavy weapons under United Nations supervision. This last key concession by the Bosnian Serbs came in an offer by Radovan Karadzic, their leader, to begin notifying the UN of its heavy weaponry within 96 hours.

Yet no deadline was set for any of this, not even for the start of the 96 hours. Cyrus Vance admitted that not until extra UN forces are in place can monitoring begin. To put it mildly this is a severe setback. Other loopholes are also beginning to appear.

A-LEVEL HEALTH WARNING

The "league table" of A-level examination results that *The Times* publishes today needs careful interpretation. This year schools have released their results voluntarily. Next year, as a result of the parents' charter, they will be obliged to do so. League tables will thus be an officially sanctioned educational Olympic games. It is vital therefore to reiterate that these are tables of examination results, pure and simple. They are not tables of "best schools" nor of those schools that have achieved the most for their pupils, nor even of the schools that have the best record of university entry or career preparation.

Throughout the past week, head teachers of all kinds of schools, including the most distinguished, expressed misgivings as they gave their results to *The Times* education staff. Most regarded competition between schools achieved by comparing A-level results as "quite fun" provided it was viewed as a sporting event. They felt it fairest to measure not just the familiar As and Bs at A-level but, as *The Times* had done, average A-level scores including Cs, Ds and Es used for university entrance purposes. They added that the more seriously such competition was taken, the more misleading and dangerous it could become.

The league tables demonstrate, if demonstration were still needed, that the best way to achieve good results is to start with clever pupils at the age of 11 or 13, by weeding out the less bright or less motivated. Those institutions that select at the start can be shown to have selected correctly. Middle class homes with an enthusiasm for education tend to be better at producing academically successful pupils than working class homes. These biases are familiar.

The necessary corrective, much debated among educationists, is for a comparison not of unweighted exam results but of academic "value added" by each school, the true measure of a school's achievement. This

ADVANCED SCIENCE

If the annual science festival held by the British Association for the Advancement of Science stopped existing it would need to be reinvented. How else would all sorts of other inventions and discoveries tickle the public's taste for novelties and surprises? The summer event has become the one serious part of the silly season, science without tears, even science as entertainment.

That is its fascination. The perfect example of a British Association paper was the one read at Southampton University this week, which addressed the fairly silly subject of untidy desks. It had a down-to-earth and satisfying conclusion. The office worker who liked to be surrounded by heaps of yellowing paper had unconsciously solved an information retrieval problem that mechanical filing systems and computer databases could not handle. Even the way old documents tend to fall off the edge and get thrown away was part of this haphazard but effective method of seeing that first things came first and last things last.

This year's British Association programme included research into lobsters which live in power-station waste, how to get children to eat spinach by computer, why waves in the Atlantic are getting taller, and the distribution of genes in the British population. The tribal groups apparently number no less than the Biblical 12, and yes, Yorkshiremen are different from East Anglians. For good measure, according to another paper, the English are taller than the Scots, and some dinosaurs had eight hearts.

The British Association summer meeting — from this year to be known as a science festival — may be a jumble of facts and

figures but one that demonstrates that not all science is grim and not all scientists lack a sense of humour. That science can be fun is a serious scientific discovery, worth celebrating and passing on. Earlier this month the nation's examination results showed that science subjects were once again in decline, the arts and humanities rising. Once more the statistics brought out a gender division between hard and soft science: girls tending towards biology, boys towards maths and physics. Even in a nation whose record of past scientific achievement is as respectable as Britain's, science has a gender problem and an image problem.

The cause is not hard to discern. It is the assumed coldness of science, the rational, objective, sheer inhumanity of it. Science must appeal to facts and calculations and evidence. The popular image of scientists says they cannot let human nature into their laboratories. They are not like ordinary mortals, with imagination, creativity and excitement.

This is an unscientific myth. Scientists are driven by passions like every other profession. The driving scientific emotion is curiosity. The experience of having it satisfied after an intense scientific quest is as thrilling as any moment known to music, art or poetry. Like historians, musicians or painters, scientists make mistakes because their feelings mislead them. They compete; they love and hate. And at the great moments of science they seize on some new truth by a leap of creative intuition long before they can prove it by logic and experiment. That is the romance of science. And each year the British Association provides the ideal popular introduction to it.

Palace privacy, public curiosity and an intrusive press

From Mr Godfrey Talbot

Sir, Numbers of people all over the world the image of our royal family has been tarnished in these last weeks. It is not a time to be proud of our press, or at any rate the grosser orders of it, and sadly, the smearing of an individual has been mistaken by some readers to be the smearing of a clan in a year in which the Queen's personally flawless four decades on the throne are being celebrated.

The silliness of "Fergie fever" seems to have led some otherwise balanced people into imagining that our thousand-year-old monarchy, unique in an envious world, has come into some sort of crisis, even evoking memories of the 1936 abdication, which is nonsense.

The British throne is unshaken. The Queen herself, because of this unlikely episode, has lately been the focus of extra public sympathy and affection, to instance the sum of many of the comments I have received.

What do moans about the monarch want? Successions of political presidential puppets waving party flags from the balcony of a Buckingham Palace turned into a government emporium?

Incidentally, is there not the greatest antithesis when one thinks of the present holder of the title and the previous Duchess of York, the matchless Queen Mother, who stays quiet and comforted, in her native Scotland?

Yours faithfully,
GODFREY TALBOT,
Holmwell, Hook Hill,
Sanderstead, Surrey.
August 25.

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies

Sir, Any tapping of private wireless transmissions is as easy as shoplifting and as illegal as interference with the Royal Mail. Such information is as much stolen as it came from a solicitor's safe or across a Chinese wall. Why are those who receive and profit from it not similarly pursued?

Yours sincerely,
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slades Cottage, Breamore Marsh,
Fordbridge, Hampshire.
August 26.

From Mr Kenneth Leech

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon

Sir, I doubt if Sir Philip Goodhart's idea (Letter, August 20) of a temporary UN trusteeship in the north of Somalia would be acceptable to the administration of "Somaliland".

As the UN secretary general is in London this week for meetings on another matter, it would be useful if our government took the opportunity to ask him in what way we could assist in trying to reduce this disaster.

The Overseas Development Agency has pledged extra money (report, August 17), but something tangible like an airlift would be a welcome addition to our contribution. It is good to learn that the United States is already flying in aid from Kenya.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,
8 Portland Place,
Brighton, East Sussex.
August 28.

Monitors for mothers

From Mrs Mary R. Heaton

Sir, Medical Briefing (August 21) says that the Royal College of Psychiatrists is to encourage GPs to give patients a questionnaire to attempt to discover underlying and therefore undiagnosed depression. One particular target is women who have recently given birth.

These women are regularly visited by the health visitor, who has considerable experience in recognising early post-natal problems and is perhaps more likely than the GP to notice early signs of depression. Perhaps the royal college could enlist the help of this group of professionals so that any tendency to depression can be identified even before the six-week post-natal check by the GP.

Yours faithfully,
MARY HEATON
8 Foxglove Gardens,
Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Exam results

From Dr R. J. Belcher

Sir, Some say that the improvement in A-level and GCSE examination results (reports, August 21, 27) is because examination marking has become more lenient. As a teacher and former A-level examiner I have seen at first hand the enormous extra effort made by both sides in our education system.

This is an unscientific myth. Scientists are driven by passions like every other profession. The driving scientific emotion is curiosity. The experience of having it satisfied after an intense scientific quest is as thrilling as any moment known to music, art or poetry. Like historians, musicians or painters, scientists make mistakes because their feelings mislead them. They compete; they love and hate. And at the great moments of science they seize on some new truth by a leap of creative intuition long before they can prove it by logic and experiment. That is the romance of science. And each year the British Association provides the ideal popular introduction to it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. BELCHER
(Deputy Warden),
Kingham Hill School, Kingham,
Chipping Norton, Oxford.

From Mr Lionel Bryan

Sir, "Guaranteed Certificate for Sitting the Examination"?

Sincerely,
LIONEL BRYAN,
23 Jesson Close,
Walsall, West Midlands.
August 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Giving the bird to a gilded cage?

From Mr Robert Storr

Sir,

I doubt that many American dailies devoted prime space to the passing of John Cage (obituary and leading article, August 14). By that measure the editorial, "Pray silence for John Cage", was a noteworthy gesture of recognition. More's the pity, then, that it should have used the occasion to belittle Cage's music and his aims, thereby reinforcing popular misunderstanding of and contempt for minimal forms of abstract art.

The device prevents unauthorised radio users from intercepting and listening into private conversations...

Yours sincerely,

S. A. SMITH,

Oftel (Office of Telecommunications),

Export House,

50 Ludgate Hill, EC4.

From Professor Emeritus L. J. Herbst

Sir,

You report (August 26) that *The Sun* intends to give the £50,000 prizem from the hotline recording of the alleged telephone conversation involving the Princess of Wales to charity.

I fervently hope that no British charity will accept any of that money.

Yours sincerely,

L. J. HERBST,

21 Walton Avenue,

Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

From Mrs Sophie Hughes

Sir,

Of all that has been reported about the Duke and Duchess of York's matrimonial difficulties I have found comments concerning the "custody" of Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie particularly objectionable.

If we are going to have a "classless" society, let us start by abolishing the notion of royalty as representing archetypal values which they don't.

can't, and never will. And let us get rid of all the hypocrisy about "public figures" and all the prurient interest that currently surrounds "celebrities".

Let us judge people by their contribution to society, not by their "status", or by their private lives, or malign title-tattle. If the media ceased to prioritise the superficial activities of a few over the often worthier deeds of the rest the heavens would not fall.

Yours faithfully,

SOPHIE HUGHES,

Radiclives & Co. (Solicitors).

5 Great College Street, SW1.

From Professor Kenneth Kirkwood

Sir,

"Flood Somalia with food", says Mr Alun Michael, MP. Yes, indeed!

But with at least equal priority stop the flood of murderous, modern weapons which has aided and accelerated the mutual mass self-destruction there.

Somali as well as British analysts

for many years have emphasised the devastating transformations automatic weapons have brought to what were relatively harmless inter-clan skirmishes.

In recent years, this old community has been massively augmented by an influx of refugees, as the

records of the refugee organisations show. The problems of homelessness among the 15,000 or more Somalis in the East End are very serious.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH LEECH,
The Somali Homeless Project,
Port Street Church,
Bethnal Green, E2.

August 26.

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The Somali Homeless Project,
Port Street Church,
Bethnal Green, E2.

August 26.

To wig or not to wig

From Mr Jonathan Fuller

Sir,

Most clients appear before the courts either against their will or, with hindsight, against their better judgments. Once there, however, they expect understanding, impartiality and fairness. If to these qualities can be added wisdom and all at no greater cost than is necessary, the law has served its purpose.

In this day and age my Lords Taylor and Bingham would be better advised to seek "user confidence" rather than "user friendliness" ("Mackay to seek public's judgment on judicial finery", August 19).

The public deserve a quality and efficiency of service they do not at present get. They are not impressed by cosmetic changes which achieve nothing of consequence save the removal of the familiar appearance which undoubtedly serves to underline the seriousness of the judicial process.

Yours sincerely,

JONATHAN FULLER,

2 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

From Mrs Catherine Cheston

Sir,

I attended an adoption hearing as guardian ad litem some years ago. Although these hearings are always informal they can be daunting to adoptive parents and children old enough to be aware of the proceedings.

The judge, a shrewd Yorkshireman, threw his wig down the table around which we were assembled and invited the children to try it on. In consequence, the adoptive parents and the children relaxed and contributed freely to the hearing. The order was granted.

What might have been a day "to go over" became a pleasurable day to remember.

Yours faithfully,

CATHERINE CHESTON,
Iserlohn, East House Field,
Cokesham, Winchelsea, East Sussex.

From Lord Justice Parker

Sir,

Will jolly "user-friendly" judges

Be better at detecting judges

Than those so often wrongly blamed

For jury verdicts later claimed.

And found, be

SOCIAL NEWS

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Sir Richard Attenborough, actor, producer and director, 69; Professor L. Banden, director, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, 61; Mrs Dorothy Carter, energy consultant, 64; Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 61; Viscount Devonport, 48; Alderman Dame Mary Donaldson, former Lord Mayor of London, 71; Sir Nigel Foulkes, former chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, 73; Mr Elliott Gould, actor, 54; Professor Denys Hay, historian, 77; Mr Lennox Henry, comedian, 34; Mr Jack Hillier, writer and expert on Japanese art, 80; Mr James Hunt, racing driver, 45; Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman, Board of Governors, BBC, 69; Mr Michael Jackson, singer, 34; Lord King of Wartnaby, 74; Mr J.H.M. Mackenzie, former chairman, London and Northern Group, 67; Mr Antony Newton, MP, 55; Mr Norman Platt, founder, Kent Opera, 72.

TOMORROW: Dr Barbara Ansell, rheumatologist, 69; Sir Harold Atherton, former chairman, Toynbee Hall, 74; Lord Brain, 66; Sir Patrick Branigan, QC, former Attorney-General, Gold Coast, 86; Sir Keith Bright, former chairman, London Regional Transport, 61; Sir Charles Burnham, former chairman, Tarmac, 84; Mr Allan Davis, theatre director, 79; Mr Kenneth Gill, trades unionist, 65; Dr A.B. Gilmour, former director, NSPCC, 64; Mr M.R. Harris, company director, 70; Lord Healey, CH, 75; Air Marshal Sir Frank Holroyd, 57; Lord Keith of Castleacre, 76; Sir Desmond Lee, former president, Hughes Hall, Cambridge, 84; Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, chairman, British Medical Association, 58; The Countess of Longford, 86; Miss Sue MacGregor, broadcaster, 51; Dr Peter North, principal, Jesus College, Oxford, 56; Sir Peter Parker, former chairman, British Railways Board, 68; Mr John Peel, broadcaster, 53; Sir Henry Phillips, former colonial administrator, 73; Miss Pamela Stringer, former headmistress, Clifton High School for Girls, 64.

University of Durham

Former students of the University (including King's and Armstrong Colleges) who have recently received the second edition of *Kinggate*, the University's alumni magazine. Anyone who has not done so is invited to contact the Alumni Relations Office, Old Shire Hall, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HP, to arrange despatch of a copy.

Latest wills

Sir Edwin Porter Arrowsmith, of London SW6, former governor of the Falkland Islands, left estate valued at £20,945 net.

Mr William Robert Brudenell Foster, of East Leckham, Norfolk, a former High Sheriff of Norfolk, left estate valued at £747,749 net.

May Gertrude Davidson, of Hoylake, Merseyside, left estate valued at £312,165 net. She left the entire amount equally between Ness Gardens, Wirral; Hoylake Cottage Hospital; and the Guide Dogs for the Blind association.

Mrs Deborah Mary Bennett, of St Martin in Menage, Helston, Cornwall, left estate valued at £6,267,32 net.

Lady Alford, of Rotherbridge, East Sussex, left estate valued at £55,126 net.

Mrs Edith Garry, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,022,214 net.

Mrs Doreen May Eccleston, of Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,149,958 net.

Mr and Mrs George Arthur Sullivan celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage today.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Locke, philosopher, Wrington, Somerset, 1632; Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and writer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1809; John Leech, illustrator, London, 1817; Maurice Maeterlinck, poet, Nobel laureate 1911, Ghent, 1862; Jean Ingres, painter, Montauban, France, 1870; Ingrid Bergman, actress, Stockholm, 1915; she died this day, London, 1982.

DEATHS: John Lilburne, republican, Eltham, Kent, 1657; Edmund Hoyle, the "father of whist", London, 1769; Joseph Wright, painter, 1797; Brigadier Young, 2nd president of the Mormon Church, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1877; Queen Astrid, consort of Leopold III of Belgium, killed in a car accident, Lucerne, 1935; Eamonn de Valera, president of the Irish Republic, 1959-73, Dublin, 1975; Lee Marvin, actor, 1987; Sir Peter Scott, naturalist and painter, 1989.

The Royal George man-of-war of 108 guns sank off Spithead with a loss of over 900 lives, 1782.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Jacques David, painter, 1748; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*, London, 1797; Ernest Rutherford, Baron Rutherford of Nelson, physicist, Nobel laureate 1908, Spring Grove, New Zealand, 1871.

DEATHS: Feargus O'Conor, Chartist leader, London, 1855; Sir John Ross, Arctic explorer, London, 1856; John Francis, sculptor, London, 1861; Georges Sorel, philosopher, Boulogne, 1922; Henri Barbusse, novelist, Moscow, 1935; Sir Joseph Thomson, physicist, Nobel laureate 1906, Cambridge, 1940.

The siege of Leningrad (St Petersburg) began, 1941.



Dream shattered: Charles and Judy Clive-Ponsonby-Fane at Brympton d'Evercy, the house they saved from ruin

Family is forced to sell country house after nearly 300 years of ownership

By JOHN YOUNG

BRYMPTON d'Evercy, one of England's most serene and beautiful country houses, near Yeovil, in Somerset, has been sold by the family which owned it for nearly 300 years, and is likely to be closed to the public, at least for the immediate future.

The sale of the house and 25 acres of grounds, for a figure in excess of the guide price of £850,000, was announced yesterday by Strutt & Parker, the estate agents. The purchasers were said to be an English family, who had requested anonymity and had no immediate plans to continue operating it on five afternoons a week.

The change of ownership marks the end of an 18-year struggle by Charles Clive-Ponsonby-Fane and his wife, Judy, to maintain the house as a viable enterprise. They saved it from dereliction after it had been rented to a now defunct public school, and spent part of their honeymoon in 1974

working to make it ready for opening, making curtains and chair covers and buying furniture at local auctions.

Mr Clive-Ponsonby-Fane said yesterday that he was bitterly disappointed at having failed to attract enough visitors at £4 a head to keep the house going. At the time the sale was announced he said that the main reason was that the house was undercapitalised, and the revenue from 15,000 admissions a year was not enough to pay for its upkeep.

He attributed part of the blame to the rival attraction of nearby Montacute, owned by the National Trust, which, he said, consumed the lion's share of restoration funds and had some two million members whose annual subscription of £23 a year entitled them to free entry to all trust properties.

The earliest parts of the house date from the fifteenth century, and a new south

facade, wrongly attributed to Inigo Jones, was added in about 1678. The Clive-Ponsonby-Fanes restored the garden, which last year won the Christie's Garden of the Year award, and opened a vineyard, a cider museum and a distillery producing apple brandy.

Strutt & Parker said yesterday that The new owners had bought it as a private home.

"They plan to carry out substantial restoration work, as a result of which the house will not be open to the public during 1993," she added. "No decision has been taken for future."

Peter Sinclair, executive secretary of the Historic Houses Association, which represents private owners and is conducting a survey of why houses go out of family ownership, described the sale as a tragedy.

"Charles and Judy are a perfect example of owners who did everything they could do and more," he said. "But for

some inexplicable reason Brympton never attracted the number of visitors it deserved."

Ironically, since the sale was announced the public had been turning up in droves, anxious to take the last chance of seeing it before it was closed.

Local architectural practices have been invited to submit designs for a £10-million visitor centre at Stonehenge.

The plans, which include closure of the A344, which runs past the ancient stones, a new building half a mile away at Larkhill, and restoration of the approach and surroundings to recreate the historic landscape, were rejected last year by Salisbury district council. But English Heritage and the National Trust, who are jointly promoting the scheme, described the sale as a tragedy.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.E. von Blora

and Miss A. Robinson

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth von Blora of Beaumont Ross, Tasmania, and Annabel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Robinson, of Maremeny, Victoria.

Dr J.G. Dunn

and Mr D. Sims

The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Dr and Mrs D.I.G. Dunn, of London NW2, and Mary, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs A.G.P. Sims of Leeds.

Mr H.R. Daniels

and Le Thi Ngoc Van

The engagement is announced between Hieu Ralph Daniels, younger son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Daniels, of Eign, Moray and of the late Ralph Daniels and Le Thi Ngoc Van, eldest daughter of Mrs Trinh Thi Ngoc of Saigon, Vietnam, and of the late Le Van Thi.

Mr D.M. Farnsworth

and Miss A.H.M. Thompson

The engagement is announced between David Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Farnsworth, of Hayling Island, and Angela Helga-Maria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E. Thompson, of Shrivernham, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Mr D.B. Fetheringham

and Miss E.M. Cook

The engagement is announced between Donald Bryan, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs G.M. Fetheringham, and Elizabeth Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C.G. Cook, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk. The marriage will take place on September 19, 1992.

Mr D.S. Leslie

and Miss E.R. Prentice

The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of the late Mr Ben Leslie and of Mrs Leslie of Kemsley, Fife, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Prentice, of Easter Reddish, Gifford, East Lothian, Germany.

Fierce fight over golf courses and hotel

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A FIERCELY fought planning battle over one of Ireland's dunciad county houses will shortly reach its climax.

Controversy centres on plans to turn Carton, 15 miles west of Dublin, into the Glenelges of the Irish Republic.

In April Kildare County Council approved an application to turn the house into an hotel with 189-bedroom extensions and conference centre, build 188 golf villas in the wooded grounds and lay out two championship golf courses in the 1,045-acre park.

The county council's only modification was to reduce the number of villas to 159 but this prompted the scheme's two major sponsors, Glenelges and Guinness, to announce their immediate withdrawal from the project.

Lee Mallaghan, who bought the estate in 1977, has said that he will proceed with the development and is looking for a new hotel partner.

The fierce controversy persuaded the Irish Planning Board to call a public enquiry in June, the result of which is expected shortly. "They have made some very good decisions in recent years. We are not too despondent," said Desmond Guinness, of the Irish Georgian Society, which has led the opposition.

Mr Mallaghan is widely accepted to have been a good landlord in recent years, though on acquiring the estate he sold a large quantity of mature timber, substantially recouping his initial £1 million outlay. Nonetheless the sense remains of a vast rolling park设计 from the outside world by thick plantations.

The main south front is a handsome Palladian composition by Richard Castle, the leading country house architect of the period who worked at Russborough and Powers Court. When the third Duke of Leinster sold Leinster House in Dublin in 1815 he employed the architect Richard Morrison to add a splendid dining room, the counterpart of Adam's famous saloon at Kenwood in north London.

The seventh Duke of Leinster signed away his inheritance in return for ready money and Carton had to be sold. It was bought in 1949 by the second Lord Broderick and later became the home of his younger son, David Nall Cain, who opened the house to the public. He offered the house to the Irish government without success and sold it in 1977.

The hotel and golf course proposals, though carefully conceived to protect the house and the main vistas, will fundamentally alter the character of a house which any preservation body in other countries would be proud to own and show to the public, even with limited contents.

Future of the Strand, page 12

Turning to the past

ENGINEERS who build gas turbines to spin at 20,000 rpm have been ensuring that one particular machine rotates at just a quarter turn a day (Paul Wilkinson writes).

They have been restoring a Victorian piece of eccentric gadgetry devised by Lord Armstrong, the armaments magnate, to give the fruit trees at Cragside, his country home in Northumbria, the correct amount of sun.

The trees, in enormous terracotta pots, sit in the machinery which turned with the sun, giving each an equal amount of light. But for some time the equipment at the house, run by the National Trust, has not worked. A team of 23 student and graduate engineers from European Gas Turbines in Lincoln has renovated the rotating pots as a summer project, shot-blasting away years of rust and dirt, welding broken parts and riveting in new ones.

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OBITUARIES

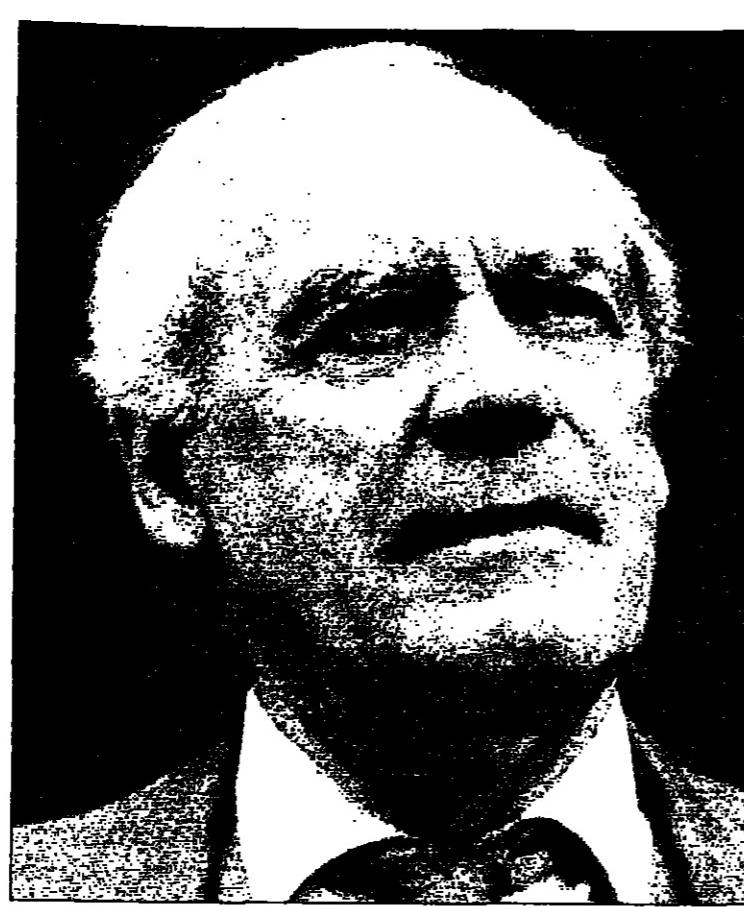
MAX SALVADORI

Max Salvadori, DSO, MC, anti-fascist activist, allied liaison officer and professor of history, died at his home in Northampton, Massachusetts, on August 6 aged 84. He was born in London on June 16, 1908.

THE opposition of Max Salvadori to the rise of fascism in Italy began when he was still a teenager. He came of Italian-British protestant descent and was brought up in Italy, mainly in Florence. His father, a philosopher and author, was unimpressed by the arrival on the scene of Mussolini. This distaste was passed on to his son and in 1924 both Salvadoris were beaten up by the Blackshirts. They had to move to Switzerland, where Max stayed five years and graduated at the University of Geneva.

By the time Salvadori completed his education, which included a doctorate in political science at Rome University, he had a profound determination not to submit to the tyranny beginning to rule his country. Unlike many of his fellow students who sat back wringing their hands, Salvadori became an activist. In 1929, when he was 21, he went back into Italy as the secret representative of Alberto Tarchiani, the exiled politician and one of the leaders of the Giustizia e Libertà party. Under the code name of "Speranza" (Hope) he acted as liaison officer between the party in Italy and the anti-fascists in exile in France. He stirred up trouble for the fascists among the university students in Rome and was an agitator during his military service.

Eventually the OVRA, a police arm of the Ministry of the Interior, caught up with Salvadori. He was first kept in solitary confinement in Regina Coeli, the cynically named prison in Rome. Then he was sentenced to 10



years "confino" on the island of Ponza, where many political prisoners were held, among them the late Sandro Pertini, who was to become president of Italy. An English cousin with some influence got Salvadori out after a year. He could not stay in Italy and spent three years farming in Kenya before moving to the United States to teach in the economics and sociology departments at St Lawrence University.

He kept close links with Giustizia e Libertà and at the first opportunity volunteered for work with British Intelligence, which realised that he was an ideal person for contacting US-based Italians who were anti-fascist. He also passed the time by sabotage against German radio transmitters in Central America.

In early 1943 he was delighted to hear that his application to join the British Army had been accepted. In

February that year he reported to Col Cecil Roseberry, who was running the Italian County Section for SOE in Baker Street. On July 6, after the usual stint of training, including a parachute course, he arrived at the Club des Pins, SOE's Algerian base west of Algiers, taking on the name of Capt Max Sylvester.

Thereafter Capt "Sylvester's" work was mainly behind enemy lines. Together with colleagues he set up a base in Sorrento and there organised the escape of Benedetto Croce, the leading liberal anti-fascist whom Mussolini did not dare to touch. For a short time Salvadori carried the rôle of Mayor of Salerno. As the allied line went forward, so did Max Salvadori. He won his MC for infiltrating agents behind the front, frequently crossing over the lines himself.

He spent some time running up and down the Adriatic coast on various subversive para-naval operations as well as being heavily involved with the new Italian political scene. This developed even more strongly after the liberation of Rome in June 1944, so much so that Harold Macmillan asked him to take a leading part in the development of the newly formed Italian government. Salvadori refused as he regarded his resistance work as incomplete until the whole country had been liberated.

His final drop was on February 4 1945 with the mission to proceed to Milan to make contact with the CLNAI (the resistance organisation for Northern Italy). He reached Milan on March 5 and from then until the end of the war in Italy he led a remarkable clandestine life, meeting as many as 50 people a day. It was during this phase of his work that his impeccable sense of security stood him in good stead. It was needed: Milan was staffed with Gestapo, OVRA and the fascist Milizia. For

this effort he was awarded the DSO. Milan made him an honorary citizen in recognition for his part in liberating the city.

When his work against fascism, which he claimed had lasted 33 years, was over he worked briefly for Unesco and then for Nato in Paris. Thereafter he returned to academic life at Bennington in Vermont and at Smith College, Northampton, where he acceded to the chair of political economics and taught until his retirement.

Max Salvadori was author or editor of more than 20 books on modern European history and politics. Among his most widely read works in English were *American Capitalism*, *A Liberal View* (1954), *Liberal Democracy* (1957) and *The Liberal Heresy* (1977). The recurrence of the word "liberal" was no accident. Max Salvadori was concerned with the significance of liberal-democratic institutions and he was unwavering in his opposition to the "fascination that dictatorship, absolutism and inquisition — Nazi-Fascist and Leninist in the 20th century — exercises over sectors of the so-called educated classes". His own memoir of the many years he spent fighting fascism appeared in English as *The Labour and the Wounds, a personal chronicle of one man's fight for freedom* (1954).

Salvadori was an assiduous attendant at ceremonies and reunions commemorating anti-fascist struggles in Italy. But he was not able to go to one in honour of himself. "A Day of Study" held earlier this year at his family's home, town Porto San Giorgio. The editor of the local paper declared: "Count Salvadori belonged to a privileged family but his sympathies were always for exploited peasants and workers for the oppressed." He himself put it slightly differently, claiming to be just an old-fashioned Radical — in the British sense.

APPRECIATIONS

Viscount Muirshiel

MAY I add to your kind and fair obituary (August 21) of Viscount Muirshiel — Jack Macday. Long before he left office, his Conservative and Unionist colleagues in the House of Commons knew that he wanted to resign as Secretary of State for Scotland as the post was proving taxing and he was much concerned about his wife, to whom he was devoted, as she was not strong and confined to a wheelchair. His colleagues felt that his work was proving highly successful and his leaving government at that point was to be avoided if possible. Also there was no obvious successor.

As his parliamentary private secretary, I reported this news to Jack and reluctantly but gallantly he agreed to stay on. Several months later circumstances had changed and the opinion of his colleagues was that if he really wished to go we would not say "no" again. Again I discussed all this with Jack and he agreed with the views expressed.

Imagine our dismay, even fury, when his name appeared among that sorry list of ministers who were dismissed on the "night of the long knives".

This was grossly unfair to Jack and also misleading. Not only was his work exemplary, but he had been expressly asked to stay on previously. His resignation could have been postponed for a few weeks and the reasons for it clearly and explicitly given, but he never complained. Jack was the most saintly character I knew in politics.

Michael Clark Hutchison

Muirshiel over the years knew that, by upholding scrupulously his principles of thoroughness and courteous fair-mindedness, he was accepted and respected by those of all political persuasions: with whom he came in contact. Those who only experienced his persuasive warmth and charm when he presided at the Scottish Civic Trust annual conferences will be no less aware of how deeply he felt about the importance of Scotland's natural environment and man-made heritage and how tirelessly he worked for the betterment of both. This was exemplified by the leading part which he played in



the setting up of the Edinburgh conference, and his keen interest in promoting Scotland's successful contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year, 1975.

That interest was maintained by him to the end and it was only ill-health that prevented him from attending the celebrations to mark the Scottish Civic Trust's 25th anniversary this year.

Lord Cameron of Lochbroom

THOSE of us who were privileged to work with Lord

Donald Stewart

ON BEHALF of all Scottish nationalists can I thank you for your fine obituary on Donald Stewart (August 24)? He was a man whose love of his country, his cause, his native language and his beloved Western Isles was always infectious. My own most significant memory of him was when he announced to rapturous applause at an SNP conference several years ago that he would never under any

circumstances accept any honours or titles from the British state, a promise to which he remained loyal as in all else in his life.

"Donny" never lived to see Scotland free again, but he can indeed rest in peace in the sure and certain knowledge that the struggle will continue until this country recovers its stolen statehood and its rightful place in the community of nations.

Alan Clayton



Denning Pearson

IN YOUR obituary of Denning Pearson (August 5) you wrote only in passing of his most valuable contributions to education as "governor of several schools".

As headmaster of Trent College (1968-88) I recognise the vast debt that technical/design education owes to Denning Pearson. Before the imponance of a "rounded education" became widely recognised he made himself available as an inspiration, an

adviser and a practising engineer of international repute to those who taught and those who learnt at Trent. It was largely as a result that more National Design Awards were won at Trent than at any other school at the time, and he was delighted when the accolade of Young Engineer of the Year rested on one of "his" pupils. His tradition has been carried forward to such effect that the present "Young Engineer of Europe" is a Trent pupil.

A. J. Maltby

Aug 29 ON THIS DAY 1972

wreckage will be taken for reassembly and close examination at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

The prince and Mr Mitchell were "terribly burnt". Their bodies were recovered from the wreckage within about 20 minutes. The fire had been extinguished by two airfield firemen and two airfield firemen manned in part by RAF volunteers.

A helicopter with a doctor on board was on the scene within four minutes. Later the bodies were taken, with a police escort, to Wordsley mortuaries, Staffordshire, after Mr D.F. Cave, the South Staffordshire Coroner, had visited the scene.

The first people there were three youths. Derrick Purton, aged 18, Richard Fowler, aged 17, and Brian Bishop, aged 13, from Yew Tree Farm, Halfpenny Green. They were in the next field when the aircraft crashed.

Derrick Purton said: "We saw the aircraft hit the tree, come down and burst into flames. He was banked when he hit the tree. The flame started within about 30 seconds, and we ran up to try and get the two men out. They were strapped in and we tried to smash off the tail, but the heat was too much and we had to retreat."

The race continued, with the 50,000 crowd unaware of the prince's death. A pall of smoke could be seen at the edge of the field, but no official announcement was made.

The prince had arrived for the race with Mr and Mrs Mitchell at about 11.45am having flown from the family home at Burwell Manor, Northamptonshire. He had a light lunch and soft drinks and while chatting with officials said he had started racing last August. He had been in three or four races this year, he said. The best position he had was seventh and the worst fifteenth.

The Queen, at Balmoral Castle, last night sent a private message of sympathy and condolence to the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at their home.

HENRY CALVERT



Henry Calvert, keeper of the department of astronomy and geophysics at the Science Museum, 1949-67, died on August 15 aged 88. He was born on January 25, 1904.

HENRY Calvert was of the generation of museum curators who provided a bridge between the standards and outlook of the pre-war scholarly community and the one which struggled to take on a new form in a period of rehabilitation and recovery. He often seemed unhappy in his work as if he did not realise that his greatest influence was in his insistence on clarity of thought. In refusing to seek admiration he failed to realise that he inspired quiet affection.

He was educated at Bridlington School, East Yorkshire. Anyone who

claimed a sensitive ear might have detected, even in Calvert's later years, a touch of a North Country accent, but others would have believed this to be the tone of a man inclined to lace his conversa-

tions with a good-humoured cynicism. His scientific education was wide: St John's College, Oxford, the University of Göttingen (where he took his doctorate of philosophy), and London University. His first employment was in industry, as a research physicist with JCI (1928-30) and with Callender's Cables (1932-4). He entered the Science Museum in 1934, at a time when the formidable Henry Lyons had completed his task of shaking off the relics of Victorianism and turning the museum into a twentieth century instrument of scholarship, with attitudes and methods appropriate to its own specialised subject matter. Lyons had been succeeded by H. E. B. Mackintosh, not the most learned of men, perhaps, but a capable administrator who had to tend the museum through a war. Cal-

vert was one of those who took

on the post-war burden.

He saw the careers of five

directors: H. E. B. Mackintosh, Herman Shaw, Frank Sherwood Taylor, Sir Terence Morrison-Scott, Sir David Follett, and Dame Margaret Weston. He refused to take sides in the bitter wrangling which went on inside the museum following the appointment of Sherwood Taylor, so bitterly resented by some senior keepers because Sherwood Taylor was an outsider. Calvert understood better than they did that Sherwood Taylor stood for the policies which were to activate not only the museum but much of the scientific world in, to use the current phrase, "the public understanding of science".

Calvert's war-time service

was in ballistics research for

the Ministry of Supply, and on

his return to the Science Museum he benefited from the increase in the number of separate departments, becoming a deputy keeper in 1946 soon after his return and keeper in 1949. As head of a department he guided a team of physicists covering a wide range of topics, which he did patiently and harmoniously. He took some part in the wider world of the history of science, being treasurer of the British Society for the History of Science from 1952 to 1963, and could be relied upon to add to the sharpness of discussion and also to the social warmth of many a specialist conference. It was, in fact, in the relaxed atmosphere of the informalities that accompany gatherings of scholars that he was at his best, intolerant of second-rate thinking while tolerant of many another human failing.

His career came to a close in

stages. He was persuaded to

take an early formal retirement

from his keepership in 1967 reverting to an assistant keepership for the next two years. He did not really like this and insisted on using an unofficial title of keeper emeritus. When fully retired he made much of local life in his home village of Merstham, consoled by his skill in chess and bridge.

He had married in 1934 Eileen Mary Frow, known as "Bobbie" to family and friends. They had two daughters. "Bobbie" died before her husband and, as his response to letters of sympathy showed, his last days were bound to be shadowed. But he will be remembered with great respect as one who warned the museum to be approached through the grove of academe and not through the market place.

Archaeology

Modern warrior helps to pinpoint ancient battle site

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

fighting the legions were wiped out.

Varus and his commanders

fell on their swords. Varus's

head was sent through an

intermediary to the Emperor

Augustus in Rome.

According to the historian

Velleius Paterculus, the

Emperor had been told

that the legions had

been wiped out by the

German tribes.

But the Roman general

Quintilius Varus, as well

as his auxiliaries, had

survived the disaster.

Although Tacitus and Dio

Cassius, as well as Velleius

Paterculus, wrote about the catastrophe

its site has never been certain: in 1875 the Germans erected a grandiose 190-foot statue at Detmold to commemorate one of the defining events of their nation. Now what seems likely to be the true location has been found, 80 miles to the north, near Osnabrück.

This discovery came after

Captain Anthony Clunn received permission from Dr Wolfgang Schüller, of the Osnabrück museum, to use his metal detector to follow up accidental finds of Roman coins in an area just north of the Kalkrieser Berg, a prominent hill just east of Brunsbüttel.

Five years ago, Captain Clunn

found a cache of 162 denarii, all dating to the reign of

Augustus but before AD9. Then he found three lead

slingsstones, similar to those

used by Roman troops. Dr Schüller wondered if a battle had taken place, and assigned an assistant, Klaus Fehrs, to survey the area.

Numerous fragments of

military hardware, and the

copper coins known as ases

were discovered, and Herr Fehrs also found an

earthen rampart some 200

metres long and two metres

high, reinforced with timber stakes. Radiocarbon dating

placed the rampart in the early

first century AD.

Among the best pieces of

Hoteliers put brave face on a bad year

Continued from page 1
Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, will be supplying would-be puma hunters with a kit including a video camera to capture any sighting of the elusive beast.

Some are still putting a brave face on what is proving to be one of the worst years on record for the £25 billion tourist industry. Nigel Butler, of the West Country Tourist Board, said that one third of members were enjoying increased business this year. The other two thirds were well down. "We are keeping our fingers crossed and although this weekend is important many of our members will continue attracting holiday custom well into November. There is time yet," he said.

In Bournemouth hoteliers are hoping that September and October will bring better fortune. "The industry at the moment is being run by three things - bank managers, receivers and fear," said John Major of the Bournemouth hoteliers and restaurants association. "Some are 30 per cent down on last year and others only 10-15 per cent down. Even if the weather had been brilliant this weekend it would not have enabled us to catch up with what has gone before."

A survey carried out in North Cornwall showed that 59 per cent of holiday business owners had had enough and were thinking of selling up. The British Tourist Authority believes that the season overall will be at least 5 per cent down on last in the number of visitors to resorts and attractions.

Recent bad weather at home has brought a sharp jump in the number of people booking foreign holidays. "For the last two weeks we have seen increases of between 25 and 30 per cent, nearly all of them for almost immediate holidays," said Peter Rothwell, marketing director of Lunn Poly.

Puma hunt, page 2
Bus station romance, Saturday Review



The way they were: one of the early novice Norland nannies with her charges



The way they are: trainee nursery nurses with their teacher and children outside their Berkshire college

Nannies mark century of excellence

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

NORLAND nannies, whose rigorous training has over the years become a byword of nannying excellence, celebrate their college's centenary next month.

Mrs Emily Ward, the founder, is to be honoured on September 25 with a reunion of graduates, the oldest of them 92, at the Georgian mansion in the Berkshire countryside near Hungerford where the Norland training college is now housed.

It was in 1892 that Mrs Emily Ward, a teacher and formidable Victorian radical, began to question the idea of the time that the care of

infants was best left to housemaids.

She decided, somewhat stubbornly but in keeping with the social thinking of the time, to set up a training scheme for "gentlewomen who aspired to be teachers but lacked the academic ability to undertake the heavyweight studies prescribed". Her Training School for Ladies as Child-nurses was opened in Norland Place in west London, and the Norland nannies were born.

More than 9,000 nannies have since passed through the rigorous two-year training. Much has changed, however, since the days of the draconian

Mrs Ward. In the early days of the Norland Institute, students could be expelled for such minor offences as reading while passing a train or gathering to gossip in groups. Boyfriends were strictly forbidden.

Today's Norlanders are put through a demanding curriculum which ranges from child psychology and health to the social skills of living within a family. Louise Davis, the college principal, says the training pays off: students receive on average of between seven and 15 job offers each and can command salary packages worth up to £20,000 a year.

Independent schools dominate A-level results

Continued from page 1
levels necessary to get to university."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that league tables would sound the death knell for some independent schools, increase tension between parents and heads and intensify competition between state and private sectors. "The tables will be an interesting

and diverting breakfast-time read, but they will add little or nothing to our total sum of knowledge about schools," he said.

Rev Dominic Milroy, the chairman of the Headmasters' Conference and headmaster of Ampleforth College, expressed satisfaction with the results. "A comparison with results over the previous five years confirms that A-level results fluctuate even at the most academic schools. Between 1987 and 1991, Winchester

rising." However, he criticised league tables and competition between schools with different admissions policies on the basis of raw results as misleading. "Tables distort aims and achievements."

A separate comparison of independent schools' performance over the past five years confirms that A-level results fluctuate even at the most academic schools. Between 1987 and 1991, Winchester

College had the highest average score, followed by King Edward's School, Birmingham.

The table includes most, but not all, of the top state schools' results. Some schools have chosen not to divulge their scores, while others have proved impossible to contact.

A-level league, page 5
Matthew D'Ancona, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Bosnia peace deadline delayed

Continued from page 1
day evening because they objected to being singled out for blame in the document on Serbia. The Bosnians, in turn, said they would leave if the paper, which detailed the threat of tougher sanctions, was not adopted.

Mr Major resolved the issue with a sleight of hand that won him strong praise as conference chairman. Using the Russians as intermediaries,

he found that the Serbs were sensitive about another long session repeating the tough condemnations of the first day. He therefore tabled the paper, which satisfied the Bosnians, then summed up saying that some good concessions had been made by the Serbs but they now had to prove their goodwill on the ground. He declared the meeting closed before anybody could quibble. The talks

will continue now in Geneva.

Asked yesterday about his

views on air strikes on Serbia,

Lord Owen said his remarks

had been intended to increase

pressure and this had hap-

pened. He said he was a

"servant of the EC" and

would set out on Monday for

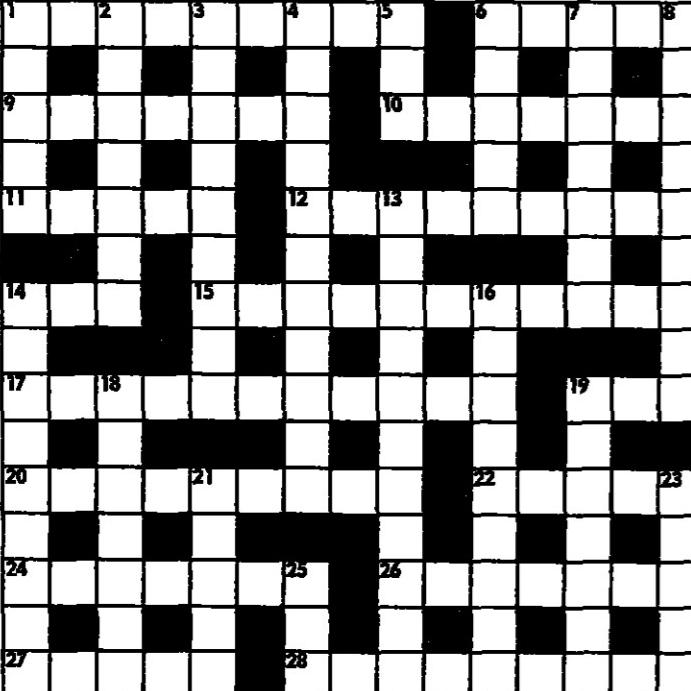
three days of discussions with

EC governments.

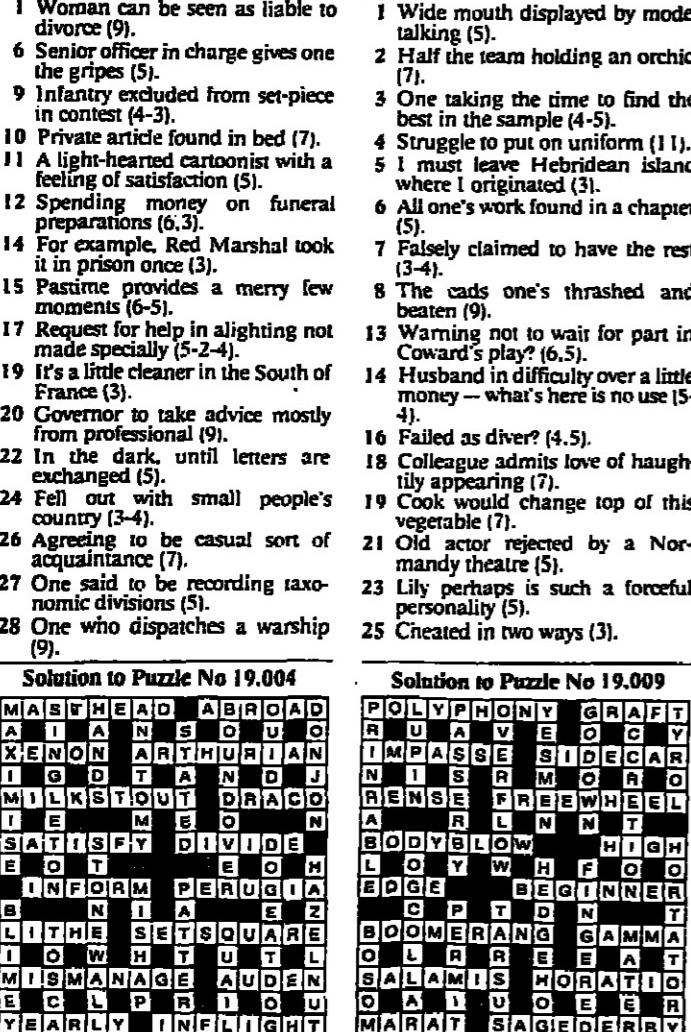
Waiting game, page 10

Leading article, page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,010



Solution to Puzzle No 19,004



PARKER A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday. Name/Address: _____

WORDSEARCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

UNICITY

a. Megalopolis, urban sprawl
b. Without testicles
c. Uniqueness

RANIVOROUS

a. Eat meat; hungry
b. Egg-eating
c. Attendant on a Ranee

LOPPER

a. An adolescent hare
b. A two-headed battle-axe
c. Carded mill

RUNCH

a. Branch without coffee
b. The wild radish or charlock
c. A rive for holding bricks

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

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C London (within N & S Cccs) 731
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M-ways/roads M25 734
M-ways/roads M25/M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
National 737
National motorways 738
West Country 739
Wales 740
Midlands 741
East Anglia 742
Northern England 743
Northeast England 744
Scotland 744
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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

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Greater London 702
London & Surrey 703
London & Sussex 704
London & Kent 705
London & Essex 706
London & Herts 707
London & Norfolk 708
London & Suffolk 709
West Mid & Shropshire 710
Shropshires & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
West Midlands 712
Dyfed & Powys 713
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
NW England 716
W & York & Cotes 717
N England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S Scotland 720
W Central Scotland 721
Edin S/Fife/Lothian & Borders 722
E Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E Highlands 724
NW Scotland 725
Cairngorms, Orkney & Shetland 726
N Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

The day will start sunny, with scattered showers on western

coasts spreading inland-later, bringing heavier rain to Scotland. Scattered showers will also develop in the East, becoming widespread later. Rain will become more persistent in the South West in the afternoon, spreading to northern and central areas. It will become windy, with possible coastal gales. Outlook: windy with heavy, blustery showers and sunny intervals.

MIDDAY

1. Thunder; 2. drizzle; 3. sun; 4. frost; 5. heat; 6. cold; 7. cloud; 8. rain; 9. shower; 10. snow; 11. sleet; 12. freezing rain; 13. blizzard; 14. gale; 15. squall; 16. drizzle; 17. rain; 18. shower; 19. drizzle; 20. rain; 21. drizzle; 22. rain; 23. drizzle; 24. rain; 25. drizzle; 26. rain; 27. drizzle; 28. rain; 29. drizzle; 30. rain; 31. drizzle; 32. rain; 33. drizzle; 34. rain; 35. drizzle; 36. rain; 37. drizzle; 38. rain; 39. drizzle; 40. rain; 41. drizzle; 42. rain; 43. drizzle; 44. rain; 45. drizzle; 46. rain; 47. drizzle; 48. rain; 49. drizzle; 50. rain; 51. drizzle; 52. rain; 53. drizzle; 54. rain; 55. drizzle; 56. rain; 57. drizzle; 58. rain; 59. drizzle; 60. rain; 61. drizzle; 62. rain; 63. drizzle; 64. rain; 65. drizzle; 66. rain; 67. drizzle; 68. rain; 69. drizzle; 70. rain; 71. drizzle; 72. rain; 73. drizzle; 74. rain; 75. drizzle; 76. rain; 77. drizzle; 78. rain; 79. drizzle; 80. rain; 81. drizzle; 82. rain; 83. drizzle; 84. rain; 85. drizzle; 86. rain; 87. drizzle; 88. rain; 89. drizzle; 90. rain; 91. drizzle; 92. rain; 93. drizzle; 94. rain; 95. drizzle; 96. rain; 97. drizzle; 98. rain; 99. drizzle; 100. rain; 101. drizzle; 102. rain; 103. drizzle; 104. rain; 105. drizzle; 106. rain; 107. drizzle; 108. rain; 109. drizzle; 110. rain; 111. drizzle; 112. rain; 113. drizzle; 114. rain; 115. drizzle; 116. rain; 117. drizzle; 118. rain; 119. drizzle; 120. rain; 121. drizzle; 122. rain; 123. drizzle; 124. rain; 125. drizzle; 126. rain; 127. drizzle; 128. rain; 129. drizzle; 130. rain; 131. drizzle; 132. rain; 133. drizzle; 134. rain; 135. drizzle; 136. rain; 137. drizzle; 138. rain; 139. drizzle; 140. rain; 141. drizzle; 142. rain; 143. drizzle; 144. rain; 145. drizzle; 146. rain; 147. drizzle; 148. rain; 149. drizzle; 150. rain; 151. drizzle; 152. rain; 153. drizzle; 154. rain; 155. drizzle; 156. rain; 157. drizzle; 158. rain; 159. drizzle; 160. rain; 161. drizzle; 162. rain; 163. drizzle; 164. rain; 165. drizzle; 166. rain; 167. drizzle; 168. rain; 169. drizzle; 170. rain; 171. drizzle; 172. rain; 173. drizzle; 174. rain; 175. drizzle; 176. rain; 177. drizzle; 178. rain; 179. drizzle; 180. rain; 181. drizzle; 182. rain; 183. drizzle; 184. rain; 185. drizzle; 186. rain; 187. drizzle; 188. rain; 189. drizzle; 190. rain; 191. drizzle; 192. rain; 193. drizzle; 194. rain; 195. drizzle; 196. rain; 197. drizzle; 198. rain; 199. drizzle; 200. rain; 201. drizzle; 202. rain; 203. drizzle; 204. rain; 205. drizzle; 206. rain; 207. drizzle; 208. rain; 209. drizzle; 210. rain; 211. drizzle; 212. rain; 213. drizzle; 214. rain; 215. drizzle; 216. rain; 217. drizzle; 218. rain; 219. drizzle; 220. rain; 221. drizzle; 222. rain; 223. drizzle; 224. rain; 225. drizzle; 226. rain; 227. drizzle; 228. rain; 229. drizzle; 230. rain; 231. drizzle; 232. rain; 233. drizzle; 234. rain; 235. drizzle; 236. rain; 237. drizzle; 238. rain; 239. drizzle; 240. rain; 241. drizzle; 242. rain; 243. drizzle; 244. rain; 245. drizzle; 2

Top 150

WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

John Timpson lives happily tucked away from tourists and progress in deepest Norfolk. He explains his affection for the real country

MICHAEL J STEAD



It was not an auspicious introduction to the country life. The earlier stages of the journey had involved leaving Liverpool Street station via Bethnal Green and Hackney, an experience which 40 years ago was even more depressing than it is today. The final stage was even worse, a ride in an ancient double-decker from the station at Norwich into the heart of what most people would call deep Norfolk, but which Norfolkmen, who like to "du diff'rent", refer to as High Norfolk. At first sight it is an unspectacular landscape, a succession of beet and barley fields with a scattering of cottages and the occasional farmhouse, all apparently uninhabited. To a born-and-bred suburbanite, on a wet Sunday in January in the early 1950s, it looked like the end of the civilised world.

I had left Harrow to venture into the unknown world of rural journalism, in this case the *Dereham & Fakenham Times*. It was a path that many others have trodden, hoping it would lead them back in due course to fame and fortune in Fleet Street, and if the opportunity came they were happy to shake the mud of the provinces off their feet and return to the joys of Metroland. I suppose I went to Norfolk with much the same ambition, and indeed as that bus penetrated deeper into the sodden hinterland of High Norfolk, I am sure I looked forward to getting out again.

But during the next eight years, as I became acclimatised to the realities of rural life, which in those days meant a privy down the garden more than roses round the door, I came to appreciate the quality of life in a small and fairly remote rural community. When I did return to London and a reporting job with the BBC, I returned with reluctance. I never lost touch with the world I now felt myself a part of, a world where life proceeded in a civilised fashion, at its own speed, as it had done for centuries, in a way which I could never experience in the big towns.

The same applies in countless other villages outside Norfolk, and over the years I have sought out a good many of them all over England. But High Norfolk in its isolated corner of East Anglia has more than most. The Industrial Revolution virtually passed it by, and until recent years so did the property developers, the travel agents and the long-distance London commuters. The branch railways which used to serve it have long since disappeared, along with the ancient double-decker and its fellows, and the nearest motorway stops short at Cambridge, 50 miles to the south. The smaller villages have no mains sewerage, even some of the larger ones are without a school or a doctor, street lighting and pavements are a luxury.

A gentle tale of village folk



A Timpson favourite: Great Massingham, Norfolk (top) and villagers Canon Cedric Bradbury, sub-postmistress Sheila Smith, Diana and Charles Fogaste from the store, and publican Mike Allen

ugly in-filling in the village centres,

the red-brick estates all around.

Some English villages suffer much more, but they may still be able to retain their identity; they may still preserve some fascinating reminders of their more deeply rooted past, and the folk who lived there in more genteel, leisurely days. They may have more to command them, in fact, than the more obvious choices of the photographers and the coach parties, because some of the villages which have managed to preserve their original appearance are not always what they seem.

The Big House in the park may look just as imposing, but it is probably a hotel or a private school, or an expensive nursing home. In the village pub there are plenty of ploughmen's lunches, but not too many ploughmen. The larger houses probably have bed-and-breakfast signs in the windows, and down the village street, behind those timbered frontages and quaint bow windows, there are souvenir shops and tearooms and the inevitable "antiques".

But it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a village which has remained as unchanged as its church. Even in High Norfolk we have the retirement bungalows and the holiday homes. We have the

That is why, when I go in search of a genuine English village with a genuine story to tell, I am wary of those which the gazetteers call "picture-book", because that may be all they are, just a pretty picture.

One has to dig a little deeper to discover if there is anything beyond the obvious behind the facade.

For instance, I found myself recently at Castle Combe, Wiltshire, often acclaimed as the prettiest village in England, so its streets are permanently packed with tourists throughout the summer. I duly admired the weavers' cottages, long since devoid of weavers, and the Big House, once occupied by Lords of the Manor, now the Manor House Hotel. But then I headed for the church, always the place to find an unexpected gem and take a sudden step back into history, and there it was, something I have seen in no other church, an ancient font with a stone book-rest carved on to the side of the bowl, so the priest could read the baptism prayers with both hands free for the baby. The church guidebook calls it unique, and I have no reason to doubt it. But who was the ingenious medieval mason who designed it, and

why didn't such a good idea catch on? Fascinating stuff.

In spite of a discovery like that, I still prefer to avoid a "picture-book village". Much more rewarding, in my view, are the unfashionable, working villages where people still lead much the same lives as their forebears, maintaining their traditions, preserving their legends, and hoping to remain undisturbed by incomers, tourists, developers, or even writers, who I am afraid have a lot to answer for in the disruption of our villages. If their books are made into films or television series, the effects are even worse. How many coachloads of sightseers have invaded that once-peaceful area of Yorkshire which is now labelled "Herritory Country"?

And how many Wordsworth buffs have followed the trail from his home in Cockermouth to the quiet little hamlet he immortalised in "The Beauty of Buttermere"? Yet even these over-publicised villages have attraction for me, quite outside their literary connections. At Buttermere, for instance, there was once a lay preacher called Robert Walker, who fulfilled his duties so assiduously that he was

scored out the "John" and carved "Peter" above it. The correction is still there, some 250 years later, and wherever the inscription is, no doubt his face is still red.

In North Yorkshire, if you turn south from those much-tramped moors into the less scenic and

comparatively deserted Vale of York, you may find a village which had its dramatic moment of glory in 1991, when it reached the final of the national village cricket competition. Its name, Harome, could rhyme with Jerome or even Salome, but it actually dates back to a 12th-century Steward of Helmsley Castle, Drew de Harum, as in harum-scarum. The team they sent to Lord's did that to their opponents, and although they lost to a much larger and more cosmopolitan village they returned to Yorkshire as heroes. They still talk about it in the cosy thatched and timbered Star Inn, and at the tiny cricket ground up the lane. Even the church magazine rose to the occasion with the headline "The Lord's Day".

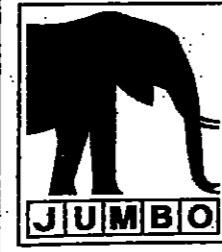
Harome has only 300 inhabitants, but a few miles away is the even smaller hamlet of Salton, just a cluster of cottages around a pocket-handkerchief green, and a medieval church with, incongruously, a chimney poking out of the chancel roof. Inside, among the usual memorials and tablets, the Victorians installed a little open fireplace by the priest's chair — not a thing of beauty, perhaps, but no doubt a joy for the parson on a chilly Sunday morning, and another unexpected discovery for the casual visitor.

The chimney and the fireplace are difficult to miss, but you may not spot the odd feature of a war memorial in another remote and tiny village, this time in Norfolk. The names of the fallen are listed alphabetically — except for Frederick Pile, who comes right at the end. Mr Pile, it turns out, was arguably the unluckiest casualty of the first world war: he was killed when a Zeppelin inexplicably dropped a bomb in the village street. After the war a great debate ensued — should Frederick Pile's name be included on the memorial? The objectors argued that he had not died in active service, so he didn't qualify, but the Pile lobby said he was still killed by enemy action. And so a classic compromise was reached: his name went on the memorial — last. There it still is, a reminder of a sad fatality, a bizarre little controversy, and a happy solution.

The delightful little village where it all happened is tucked away in the heart of Norfolk's farming country and is still quite unspoilt — just a couple of farmhouses, a single street of cottages, a 700-year-old flint-walled church, and that memorial. But unlike Frederick Pile, its name will remain unrecorded — because I happen to live there myself.

• Timpson's English Villages, £19.99, is published by Headline Book Publishing plc on September 10.

PRIZE CROSSWORD, PAGE 10



Here, in nine letters, is a clue to what to do over the holiday weekend. There are prizes of £50 each for the first five winners

BEST OF BRITAIN, PAGES 8, 9



Nottingham, "a town full of improbable splendours", has far more to its bow than Robin Hood and Sherwood Forest

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS, PAGES 6, 7, 11



Bank holiday specials this week include delicious recipes for entertaining, best buys in wines, places to visit (even buy)

"Phizmongery" Hogarth called it.

For Sotheby's British portraits are a continuing success. This painting of the future king Edward VI sold for £52,800, head and shoulders above the pre-sale estimate.

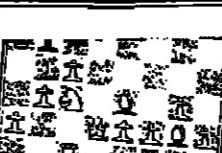


A Jacobean portrait of Prince Edward, aged nine, from the July 1992 sale. Sold for £52,800.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 18TH SEPTEMBER. Highlights of this sale already include Allan Ramsay's delightful 1760 portrait of Elizabeth Gunning, Duchess of Argyll and Constable's glorious view of Salisbury Cathedral. If you're interested in selling, your portraits, landscapes, watercolours and drawings by British artists could be worth a king's ransom, too. Please contact David Moore-Gwyn or Henry Wemyss on 071-408 5406 or 5409 as soon as possible.

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Sacher snapped up. Can
Solution below



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ALIEN * (18): Sigourney Weaver fights another alien infestation in deep space. Unusually drab and downbeat. Charles S. Dutton, Charles Dance; director, David Fincher. *Camerons Parkway* (071-257-7034) *MGM Chelsea* (071-352-5096) *Odeon Kensington* (0426-514666) *Odeon Leicester Square* (0426-515 683) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792-3303)

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but ho-hum sequel, at its best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. *Empire* (071-497 9999) *MGM Fulham Road* (071-370 2636) *MGM Oxford Street* (071-636 0310) *MGM Pantom Street* (071-930 0631).

THE CUTTING EDGE (PG): Ice hockey player turns figure-skater and has a prima donna of the blades. Very silly. D.B. Sweeney, Milla Jovovich; director, Paul M. Gasek. *UCI Haymarket* (071-839 1527).

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISE (15): Six well-heeled friends in search of an uninterrupted meal. But their marvellously amusing 1972 satire, revived with six other films by the master of screen surrealism. With Fernando Rey and Stéphane Audran. *Renoir* (071-837 8402).

JEZIRE (G): Cinderella from New Jersey tries for a Manhattan Prince Charming. Stale romantic comedy with a few bright moments. Jamie Gertz, Dylan McDermott; director, David Burton. *Plaza* (071-497 9999).

JUICE (15): Friendship and violence among ghetto youths. Superior sample of the new black cinema, directed by Spike Lee's cameraman Ernest R. Dickerson. With Omar Epps and Tupac Shakur. *Electric* (071-2020 0611) *MGM Pantom Street* (071-920 0631) *MGM Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *Rio* (071-254 6677) *Ritz* (071-372 2121).

Ghetto guy: Tupac Shakur with Omar Epps in *Juice*

MY COUSIN VINNIE (15): Adventures of a novice lawyer defending a murder charge down South. Uncertain comic vehicle for Joe Pesci; bright support from Marisa Tomei. Director, Jonathan Lynn. *Odeons: Haymarket* (0426 915353) *Kensington* (0426 914666) *UCI Whiteleys* (071-792 3332).

NEW DIRECTORS '92: Six shorts funded by the British Film Institute. Mark Nash's *Between Two Worlds* and a semi-documentary *Capeone Quickplay* are pleasing; otherwise, depressing. *Metro* (071-437 0757).

THEATRE

LONDON

ACAPULCO: Steven Berkoff swatting flies in a Mexican hotel while working on a Rambo film. Absorbing character studies.

King's Head: 115 Upper Street, N1 (071-226-1916). Tues-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, Sun, 3.30pm.

AMPHIBIANS: Latest Billy Roche play, charting change and the passing of old tradition in County Wicklow (where else?). The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today mat, 2pm, eve, 7.15pm. Mon, Tues, Wed, 7.15pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm.

GAMBLERS: Oleg Menshikov, performing in his first time, with Mark Ryance in promising version of Gogol's drama of a hussar and four con-men. *Tricycle*, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Previews from Thurs, 8pm. Opens Sat, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 7pm. Until Oct 3.

HECUBA: The suffering of war's victims, as seen by Euripides; Laurence Boswell's first production since becoming the Gate's artistic director. Gate, 11 Peabody Road, W1 (071-270 2020). Previewed Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 7pm. Until Oct 3.

JUNE MOON: Revival of the Ring Lardner/George S. Kaufman comedy with music. Set in Tin Pan Alley, hitherto dry and vintage 1923. Alan Strachan directs.

Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Previews from Thurs, 8pm with mat next Sat (Sept 5), 4pm. Opens Sept 8, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

THE MADRAS HOUSE: Roger Allam heads strong cast in Granville Barker's proto-feminist, serious comedy, set in an Edwardian fashion house.

Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 081-741 2311. Opens Wed, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Oct 10.

SOPHOCLES' OEDIPUS PLAYS: Gerard Murphy in the title role of Adrian Noble's thrilling trilogy.



Thrilling trilogy: Gerard Murphy as the doomed hero of Sophocles' *Oedipus Plays* at the Barbican (see Theatre)

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Tony Slattery in *Radio Times*, musical featuring Noel Gay's wartime songs. Comes to London in October.

BIRMINGHAM REP: Birmingham Rep, Broad Street (021-336 4455). Previews from Fri, 7.30pm. Opens Sept 8, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, Sat, 3pm.

GLASGOW: Citizens autumn season opens with *The Home Show*. Pieces, David Greenspan's tour plays, set in different rooms of his home. Third Theatre, previews Tues, 7pm. *The Wasp Factory*, adaptation of Ian Banks' hair-raising novel is at the Second Theatre, previews Wed, 7.30pm. *Monsters*, Shaw's Major Barbara, with Stephen MacDonald is at the Firkin Theatre, previews Thurs, 7pm. *Crizzens*, Gorbals (041-429 0022), Tues-Sun, 7.30pm.

TAUNTON: Opening date for Theatre Company's national tour of Wedekind's *Lulu*. Contains controversial scenes omitted in previous translations.

Brewhouse, Coal Orchard (0823-283244), Tues-Sat, 7.45pm.

Mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm.

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MUSIC

CLASSICAL

BBC WELSH SO/OTAKA:

Tadaaki Otaka, the BBC Welsh Symphony's Principal Conductor, conducts the London premiere of a BBC commission from his compatriot, Toru Takemitsu. The first performance of *Fantasma/Cantos* was given last September in Cardiff. The work, for clarinet and electronics, uses a structure intended to resemble a Japanese garden, through which the listener strolls.

BBC Proms: Albert Hall, South Kensington, London SW7 (071-823 9988), tonight, 7.30pm.

JAZZ

TOKU ROUND MIDNIGHT JAZZ FESTIVAL: A week of quality jazz, with star-attractions including electric jazz improvisers Bob Berg and Mike Stern (Mon, Tues, 7.30pm), young guitarist Kevin MacKenzie and the Julian Arguelles Group plus Tommy Smith and Chick Lyall (Mon, 10.30pm) and Courtney Pine enjoying his Jamaican roots with The Paradise Reggae Band (Fri, 11pm). The high spot however comes when the piano great George Shearing teams up with the emotional balladeer Carol Kidd (Thurs, 8.30pm).

GEORGEBECKUM/HALLY:

This is one great orchestra that is not afraid to balance the familiar with more recent works. In the first two Edinburgh appearances under Riccardo Chailly they combine Haydn's "Farewell" Symphony (No 45) and Beethoven's Symphony No 4 with Luciano Berio's *Requie*, completed in 1985 (Usher Hall, Mon, 8pm); the second concert (Tues, 8pm) follows Webern's first major orchestral work, the 1904 Passacaglia, with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4 (Maria Joao Pires is the soloist) and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony.

The London concert offers variations on the same programming. At the Proms on Wednesday, the Beethoven concerto is coupled with the revised Vienna version of

Bruckner's First Symphony. On Thursday (7.30pm) Bruno Maderna's engaging 1970 *Grande Autodafé* for flute, oboe and orchestra comes between the Webern and the Tchaikovsky.

Usher Hall: Lohian Road, Edinburgh (031-225 5756), Mon, Tues, 8pm. Unsold tickets from venue one hour before perf. Albert Hall (as above), Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm.

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SALEROOMS

MONDAY AND TUESDAY: Sotheby's pay their annual visit to Gleneagles Hotel, Auchterarder. Perthshire. On Monday there are sessions of silver and jewels, 10.30am, Wemyss ceramics, 3pm, and sporting guns, 6.30pm. On Tuesday there are Scottish pictures at 5pm and 8pm.

SOTHEBY'S: 34-5 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080).

WEDNESDAY AND...

THURSDAY: Sales range from a George II silver candlestick by way of books, furniture and watercolours, 10am each day. Russell Baldwin & Bright, Ryelands Road, Leamington (0588 611165).

FRIDAY: Phillips in Glasgow offer Scottish paintings, 11am. Phillips, 207 Bath Street, Glasgow (041-221 8377).

EXHIBITIONS

THE PAINTED NUDE: Up until the time of Titian in the early 19th century the nude in British painting generally required an excuse in the shape of a subject from classical myth or a Biblical story. But from then on it gradually became accepted in its own right, until today it can be the major preoccupation of a painter like Lucian Freud. What changed eyes? This exhibition from the National Gallery's own collection.

Tate Gallery: Millbank, SW1 (071 821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until Dec 27.

MANET: THE EXECUTION OF MAXIMILIEN

THE IMMEDIATE OCCASION: The immediate occasion of the exhibition is the cleaning and restoration of the original St Petersburg painting of the execution of the emperor Maximilian of Mexico. Also on display are other Manet paintings with political overtones.

National Gallery: Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-278000), Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-4pm, until Oct 11.

OLD MASTER DRAWINGS:

This amazing selection, first seen in London last year, includes five Michelangelo's, five Raphael's and two Leonardo's, as well as works by Rembrandt, Rubens, Dürer, Claude, Watteau, Holbein, Gainsborough and Rowlandson, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (0865 278000), Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2-4pm, until Oct 11.

WYNDHAM LEMLIS:

LEMLIS: Lewis's first world war work proves to be suffused with pity and terror. For him the poetry was not, as for Wilfred Owen, entirely in the pity; there is a terrible beauty in the way that man becomes a machine. The result is a complexity of response hardly hinted at in Lewis's other work.

Imperial War Museum: Lambeth Road, London SE1 (071-416 5000), daily, 10am-6pm, until Oct 11.

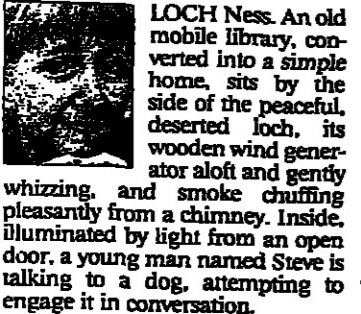
BOOKINGS

THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT: The premiere of this new play is performed at Stratford this October. The drama re-opens a officially closed 400 years ago — that of Christopher Marlowe's murder at Deptford in May 1593. Peter Whelan's play portrays him as a writer struggling to complete his most serene poem amid the crossfire of Protestant and Catholic politics, finally driven into hiding in the deserted theatre that once housed his plays. The play is directed by Bill Alexander.

The Other Place: Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon (0785-295623). Previews from Oct 28.

Cult of the camcorder celebrities

What people want now is the glamour of being on television, Lynne Truss writes, even if this entails filming themselves



LOCH Ness. An old mobile library, converted into a simple home, sits by the side of the peaceful, deserted loch, its wooden wind generator aloft and gently whizzing, and smoke churning pleasantly from a chimney. Inside, illuminated by light from an open door, a young man named Steve is talking to a dog, attempting to get it to bark.

"Ow-uunur," Steve whines, encouragingly. The dog cocks its head, as though interested but mildly puzzled. "Ow-uunur," repeats Steve earnestly, as though meaning every word. Eventually the dog whines back. Steve gets animated and whines some more; as does the dog. They whine alternately, in fact, until the dog, rather abruptly, simply runs off to things to say, or possibly remembers an appointment elsewhere. At which point Steve turns to the camera, and explains to the viewer precisely what he and the dog have been talking about.

Steve Feltham's *Desperately Seeking Nessie* was shown early in the current run of *Video Diaries* on Saturday nights (BBC2), and was outstanding for all sorts of reasons. Tracing his first year as a dedicated monster-hunter, his film was sharp, personal, good at interviews (even with recalcitrant dogs), and very funny. Sitting on Hadrian's Wall, for example, he remarked that years ago it was "crawling with Italians". But what was great about Steve Feltham's diary was encapsulated in that excellent moment of turning to the camera and intercepting his little chat with the dog.

The trouble with some video diarists, you see, is that camera fetishism can take over. It is as though the viewfinder narrows their view of the world, rather than opening it out; and it is as though the video tape dismally eats up their experience, too, rather than communicating it to a waiting world.

If last week's *Not A Transvestite* was disappointing, it was because the transsexual diarist (Mika, formerly Mike) generally used the camera as either a dull record of events ("how I walked upstairs a knee's eye view") or as a tiresome friend who insisted on being plonked down on a table to listen to the latest setback. Both are beseiging faults of video diarists, leaving you at home vertiginous and fatigued (sick and tired, if you prefer).

But back with Steve and the dog, here we had a diarist apparently

TV REVIEW

sitting casually indoors making his own entertainment, with just a camera for company; yet at the same time refreshingly aware of an audience beyond the camera — for whom, in fact, the camera *per se* was of no interest whatsoever.

Sorry to bang on about ancient history (a month is a very long time in broadcasting) but this man was a natural video diarist, whose evident instinct for directing not only gave the whole film a highly professional appearance, but also helped him invaluable in putting across his unique point of view. By the end of *Desperately Seeking Nessie*, he had persuaded the viewer that devoting one's life to scanning a 22-mile Scottish loch with a pair of binoculars was not at all ridiculous, but was actually the best life-decision a young Dorset burglar-alarm salesman could possibly have made.

Anyway, I mention all this because the series is nearly finished, and because tonight's film, *The Man Who Loves Gary Lineker*, is another great success in the point-of-view department.

Tonight's diarist is Ylli Hasani, an Albanian doctor with spectacularly good English, who does indeed love Gary Lineker. What makes his devotion remarkable is that he can feed it only by spending evenings alone in a virtually empty room listening to the BBC World Service on a radio resembling a blue metal box, and cheering like a loony at the crackly faraway English football results.

There is nothing cute, however, about Dr Hasani's devotion to things English. The cheerful "Liliburero" theme tune blaring forth in the context of this forgotten, poor, demoralised society reeling from past repression might seem incongruous, but that is very definitely the point. "Liliburero" is a lifeline, and so is the video diary. Seen from Dr Hasani's point of view, Albania is a place with nothing in it except the echo of British broadcasting. Every house he visits is stark, empty, windowless; the landscape itself seems stripped bare, like the set of a post-holocaust Mad Max movie. Yet at home there is *Inspector Morse* on the black and white television set, and Misha Glenny on the radio, to substantiate what Albanians had always suspected but were forbidden outright to know: that there is a world elsewhere.

A puzzling aspect of *Video Diaries* is that since the films are made with cameras loaned by the BBC,

Had Dr Hasani been the subject of a third-person documentary, it could never have had the force of this film. Because however close a reporter gets to his subject, his point of view will inevitably be that of a visitor, who can go home afterwards and watch *Inspector Morse* in colour. Somehow a line gets drawn underneath the alien lifestyle. The great poignancy of Dr Hasani's video diary is that it holds none of this comfort: the making of the film gives him a noble sense of purpose, but it also underlines his appalling isolation (his own, and his country's) quite brutally.

"Misha Glenny!" he exclaims in his room, hugging the radio (making you suddenly appreciate how complacent we are about our broadcasters). How will he bear it, returning home camera-less, to his salary of £10 a month, after three months in London editing his film?

A puzzling aspect of *Video Diaries* is that since the films are made with cameras loaned by the BBC,

on BBC videotape, they carry the suggestion that video technology is beyond the reach of the common man. Is this another example of tunnel vision, I wonder? Camcorders have become so commonplace that among certain classes they have replaced spectacles as a barrier to kissing. This does not signify, of course, that everyone has become interested in recording social history all of a sudden, or that they love their families more. What people want is the glamour of being on telly, and if this entails making the very themselves, then so be it.

Amateur video-makers are so keen for their work to be broadcast that the new series of ITV's *You've Been Framed* has reportedly been bombarded (and it serves them right) with 50,000 submissions. To the people sorting them out, it must seem that half the people in Britain (or Essex, anyway) are making screamingly funny videos of the other half falling into canals with astonished looks on their faces.

And, just as poets generally do not write poetry for its own sake (they send it to magazines), so very few people clamp camcorders to their eyeballs without the ambition of sharing their talent with a few million unsuspecting strangers.

Obviously *Video Diaries* hardly acknowledges the laser look-at-me instinct involved in video-making, but it exists anyway; and when the diarists acknowledge the power of television, it generally improves things. Meanwhile, the 15 minutes of fame promised by Andy Warhol may seem old-hat, but people feel cheated if they do not get it. Nobody is content to think, "Never mind, I expect Esther Rantzen got mine". Instead, they hunger after star status. How long before they start hammering on doors? I envisage a popular uprising, along the lines of the famous mob shouting "Give us back our 15 days!" when the calendar went all

peculiar in 1752. This time they will encircle the BBC's Television Centre and demand of Esther "Give us back our 15 minutes!"

But how can we blame our decadent society for this cult of celebrity when Dr Hasani is evidently touched by it, too, remote though he is in Albania, where a camcorder would cost him ten years' salary? When he says tonight that meeting Gary Lineker is the most wonderful moment of his life, it is both inspiring and sad, reminiscent of the way that terminally ill children make heart-warming headlines by being photographed with Steve Davis.

Years ago, it seemed odd when in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1949), Linda Loman said of her husband Willy that "he never had his name in the paper". So what? I used to think. But if a modern Linda said Willy never had a video on the television, everyone would understand at once that his life had been a total waste of time.

7

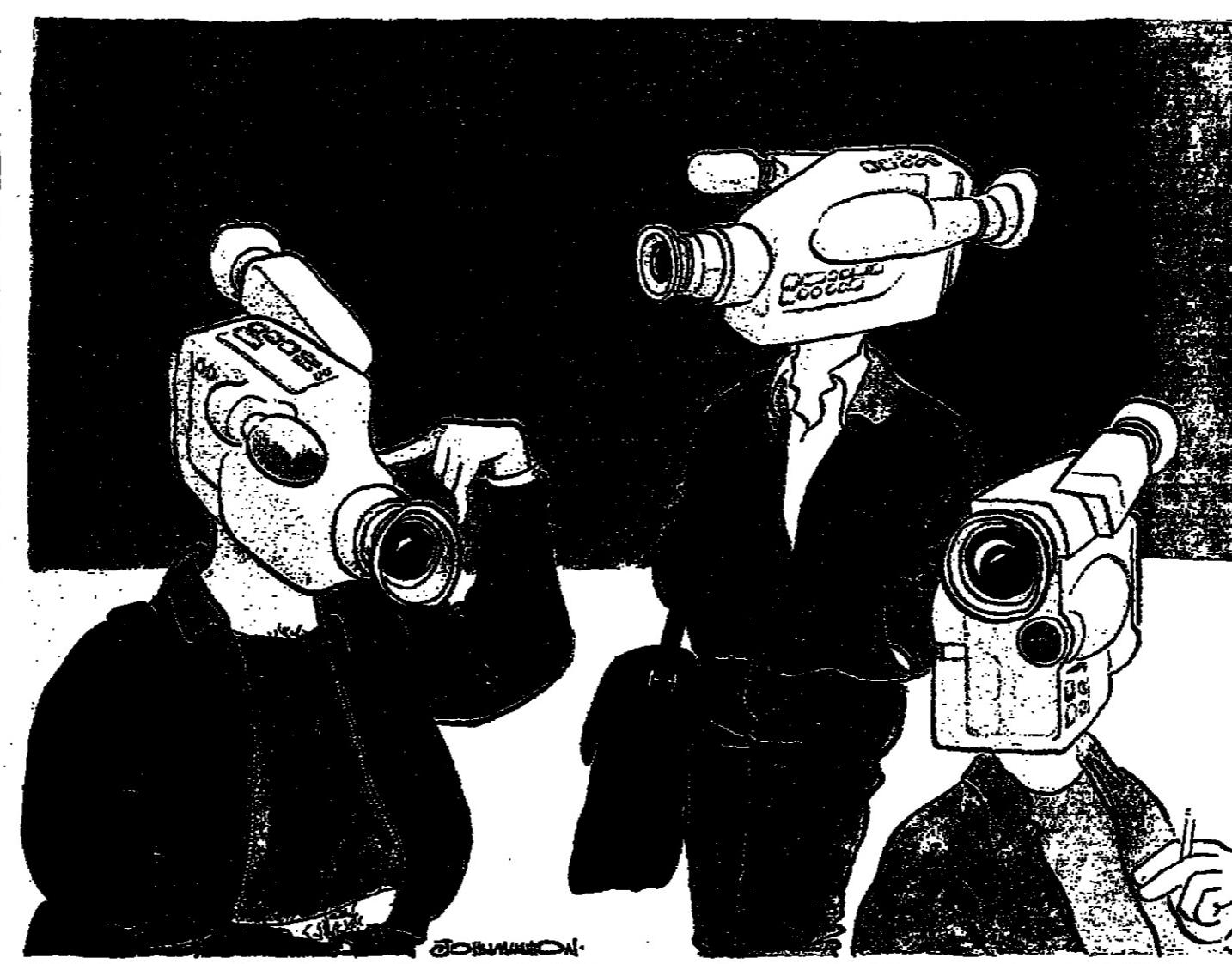
TV PREVIEW

• **Court TV: America on Trial (Tonight, Channel 4, 9pm)** Among the real-life court cases covered in this bizarre form of entertainment is *New York v Hampton*, concerning the conman who infiltrated New York society by claiming to be the son of Sidney Poitier. His story was so good that John Guare wrote a play about it, *Six Degrees of Separation* (now at the Comedy theatre). Hampton, who could have written his own play along the lines of *Whose Life Is This Anyway?* then started to harass Guare for a share of the play's proceeds. Someone should write a play about it, but perhaps no one dares. Meanwhile, will Poitier turn up unexpectedly in the courtroom amid gasps and faintings, claiming to be the real Martin Guerre, or was that another movie? Confused? You will be.

• **TV Hell (Monday, BBC2, 7.30pm)** Nothing very hellish about the prospect of five hours of archive stuff, presented by Angus Deayton and Paul Merton, even when the archive stuff promises to give renewed resonance to the term abysmal, with short programmes devoted to such deeply infernal subjects as the *Eurovision Song Contest*, chart show disasters, *It's A Knockout*, and the history of TV-am. I admit I had trouble coming to terms with the concept of *TV Hell* when it was first proposed. To my eternal damnation, no doubt, I dithered over the request from they sent me for the Critics' Choice segment, and failed to send it in. My stumbling-block was in the matter of definitions. Surely the only real sin television can commit is to be forgettable — in which case I'd forgotten it, and wouldn't want to see it again. But, as I suspect we will discover on Monday, the road to *TV Hell* is paved with that kind of literal-mindedness.

• **Wayne's World (Wednesday, BBC2, 6.50pm)** During Wimbledon this year, you may have noticed a mysterious billboard campaign from Nike in which, against a background of orange, green and purple, were the words "Excellent colours to be worn at Wimbledon. Not!" (or something similar). If you didn't understand this, you were not alone, since Wayne-speak was hardly common parlance at the time. Or, to put that another way, it was common parlance — er, not. Anyway, from Wednesday, Der II is screening ten-minute segments of the original American *Saturday Night Live* sketches, which introduced Wayne's basement cable television show to a waiting world. (not), and inspired the popular cinema entertainment *Wayne's World*, which is considered — er, awesome by the younger people, m'lud. And this should explain everything.

L.T.



Switched on: amateur video-makers are said to have bombarded the producers of the new series of *You've Been Framed* with 50,000 tapes

Record review: Benny Green, Paul Weller, Kylie Minogue and a full-blooded Turnage with the CBSO

Two-fisted Green testifies



Aural candy: Kylie Minogue

There was a time when almost any disc bearing the Blue Note logo could be guaranteed to contain a distinctive brand of vivacious, high-quality music. Since its relaunch in 1985, standards have been more erratic, the label struggling to fashion a new identity amidst the new wave of ultra-technocrats. Benny Green's live session, *Testifyin'* (Blue Note CDP7-98171) is a much-needed celebration of traditional values.

Not to be confused with his English namesake, Green first attracted attention as the sharpest of the slick young pianists who passed through the backing band of the singer Betty Carter. A spell with Art Blakey's The Jazz Messengers followed before Green formed his own trio. *Testifyin'* captures the group in majestic form at New York's Village Vanguard at the end of its inaugural tour.

Green's two-fisted approach blends elements of some of the most soulful pianists without becoming ensnared in reverential tributes. Among the main influences is the underrated trio that Ahmad Jamal ran with the bassist Israel Crosby and the drummer Vernell Fournier in the late 1950s. Green's partners, Christian McBride and Carl Allen, re-create the same impression of spaciousness and controlled aggression.

The most refreshing aspect to this album is its emotional directness his version of "Down By The Riverside", framed by an infectious vamp, would surely go down well in any Baptist church.

Another of Blue Note's signings, the mercurial Cuban pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba, has aroused mixed responses during his visits to London. *Images* (Blue Note CDP7-99492), a live set taped in Japan, showcases the hyperactive drumming of Jack DeJohnette and the equally frenetic bass playing of John Patitucci. Rubalcaba's solos are spun out at a bewildering pace — some of the atonal digressions and note clusters could be mistaken for Cecil Taylor's handwork. You have been warned.

CLIVE DAVIS

Putting on the image style

At times it has seemed that Paul Weller places clothes and political correctness above his music. But running through the former Woking mod's work with, first, The Jam and subsequently The Style Council and The Paul Weller Movement, has been an obvious love of diverse pop styles and an original, incisive lyrical viewpoint.

A first solo LP, *Paul Weller* (Gol Disc 828 343-2) indicates a continuing appetite for everything from 1960s rock to 1990s club grooves, and a still-sharp pen. But the tone is more relaxed, less judgemental than of late, and the recent hit single "Uh-Huh-Oh-Yeh!" leads the way into a confident, mellow-minded set which includes his best work since 1985's "Our Favourite Shop".

By suppressing his tendency towards a hectoring lyrical tone, Weller refocuses attention on his skill as a deft assimilator of recent musical history. But while the lightly jazzy "Round & Round" and "Remember How We Started", or the near-psychadelic "Into Tomorrow", draw their mood from disparate genres, the result is cohesive and unmistakably Welleresque.

There is less social commentary

than before — his concerns here are more personal than public — but his eye for the telling detail is as keen as ever. It's a confident and enjoyable performance, and sartorial students will be pleased to note that it comes complete with a fold-out sleeve showing the man in presumably essential post-Mod dress — a frilled, collarless shirt and immaculate pin-striped trousers.

Like Weller, former Neighbours star Kylie Minogue knows the importance of a smart appearance. Her changing-room choices veer towards the more minimal, however. She is now such a familiar sight performing near-erotic dance routines on variety shows and Saturday morning television that it's easy to forget she was introduced to us not in a studded bustier and hot pants, but in the garage repair shop chic of her television character Charlene.

Nowadays, every subsequent single release is accompanied by a "new look". Yet the cumulative effect of this hyper-concern with image — she has transformed herself from soap-Kylie to sex-Kylie in four years — has been to render

ALAN JACKSON

expressionistic visions of Velázquez's vision of the image of Pope Innocent X. But creating art is a matter of personal response, not of making something from nothing (unless you are John Cage).

Turnage's music has an impressive immediacy that sometimes verges, one feels, on the naive, carefully designed and crafted though it is. He does not think to himself how best he can impress; he writes down his feelings directly. *Three Screaming Popes* he explains in his note in terms of moods — a "bell-like summoning", a "scrunchy basic chorale", a "peaceful middle section" and, inevitably, a "bluey melody for low saxophones and bassoons".

The impression is an overwhelming kaleidoscope of sounds, stamping, lurching, singing and screaming, distorting just as Bach's portraits do. This performance is admirably full-blooded, though the CBSO's strings sometimes sound as though they are strung a little for the notes.

Decca's equivalent to EMI's series is the revived Argo label, devoted to American as well as British music and, as in the old days, choral and organ music in general. Among its recent crop of releases is a disc of three works by Constant Lambert (Decca Arg 436 118-2), that delicate but colourful and versatile figure, author of *Music Hall*, the highly influential comment on the state of the art in the 1930s, and a member of the Siwels' circle.

Lambert is not exactly a fashionable figure today, though his extravagant, jazzy piano concertos come cantata. *The Rio Grande*, composed in 1927 to a fairly meaningless but typically clever poem by Sacherevitz Siwetz, still gets the occasional airing. This piece, in fact, is the first one on this disc, and the pianist Kathryn Stott, the BBC Singers (slightly thinning) and Stephen Pettitt

ing) and, with a brief but telling contribution towards the end, the mezzo soprano Della Jones dispatch it with due rhythmic verve and understated brilliance.

The BBC Concert Orchestra plays the score clearly and efficiently under Barry Wordsworth. The same applies to two less well-known pieces, the *Concerto for piano and nine instruments* (again with Stott as soloist), which is an altogether darker, deeper piece, composed in 1930, and dedicated to Peter Warlock, and the suite from the otherwise lost Ashton ballet *Horo-scope* (1937), colourful but again without moment either.

Finally, another Decca release, of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, played by the Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi (Decca 430 841-2). It is good to report that Dohnányi lets this music breathe; there is no sense of the self-glorification I felt with Franz Welser-Möst's performance, recorded live at the 1991 Proms and since then highly praised by many colleagues. We are, thank heavens, a broad church.

STEPHEN PETTITT

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

FREDERICK FORSYTH

Where would you go? Salcombe, south Devon, which is probably the prettiest small port in England. It also happens to be the most southerly harbour in England and, therefore, close to the Channel fishing and shark grounds.

How would you get there? By car, probably the Panther J72, with the top down if the weather was bright and sunny.

Where would you stay? At The Marine Hotel, in a room with a balcony overlooking the harbour.

Who would be your perfect companion? Sandy, my girlfriend. She would spend the day contentedly by the pool or in the solarium while I was out fishing.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take? My three boat rods, from the shark-stick to the light casters; plus waders, thick socks, jeans, plaid shirt and storm jacket.

Which medicines? Two bottles of decent claret, probably St Emilion, to accompany lunches at sea.

What would you have to eat? At sea, cold roast chicken, hard-boiled eggs, bread, tomatoes, radishes, biscuits and bananas.

What would you have to drink? The medicine.

Which books would you take? None. Returning at dusk after ten hours at sea, the evening calls for the sun goes down — then out to a restaurant for fresh lobster.

What music would you listen to?

The cry of gulls and terns, the thump of the engine, the whistle of the wind, the churning of the sea and, hopefully, the creak of a good rod when a heavy fish comes on the hook.

What would you play on television?

Nothing. The point is to try to get away from the blasted thing.

What film would you watch?

None. The tossing Channel is more scenic than anything on celluloid.

Would you play any games or sport?

Only the fishing.

What piece of art would you like to have there?

None. A Tintoretto looks silly in the wheelhouse of a Tusker 33.

While Ted brings up another 100 on strings of feathers — enough hair for the day. 3. Get strikes from ling, pollack, whiting, conger, coalfish, wrasse and have one of them taken on the reel-in by a big hunting mako prepared to play for an hour.

To whom would you send a postcard?

My sons, Stuart and Shane, at Hailbury.

Legless ram chalks up blurred romantic engagement

IT MAY seem premature to be forecasting a gloomy new year, but I fear that the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" will hang nervously on my lips in 1993. We are like the toy industry here, thinking of Christmas while the summer sun scorches, planning things for Easter while Guy Fawkes smoulders on his bonfire.

In hot July we sowed kale and turnips for the sheep in chilly February, while they eat it we shall be sowing wheat to harvest in the summer, 12 months hence. We hardly ever seem to live in the present and, because the farmer's eye is always cast beyond the horizon, the days and weeks flash by; it becomes difficult to believe that the farming year is 12 whole months; it feels about nine.

And so it was on a hot and humid day last week that, thinking of winter lambs, I went to the field where the ram has been living a

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

monastic life for the last ten months and penned him in the corner. There I bestowed upon him his chain of office, in the shape of a harness that carries a crayon brilliant red as a mayoral ruby, strapped between his front legs. It is noticeable that as soon as his eyes fall upon this apparatus — the riddle — he stands very still for it to be adjusted, like a king being crowned. He knows what is coming next. His summer of discontent is about to be made glorious autumn in the company of 40 ewes.

We worked it all our carefully so that the first lambs will be born on New Year's day. This is deliberate. I can usually survive the first six days of Christmas family jollity, but after that I find it very handy to

have a flock of pregnant ewes to keep me out of doors for several hours a day. In fact, I can recommend livestock to anyone who is looking for a solid excuse to avoid relatives. I have often left strained family gatherings muttering, "I'm afraid the old cow has a touch of the scours; I'd better have a look at her back end." Then, heroically and self-sacrificingly, I trudge across the farmyard and have a welcome five minutes peace under the haystack. Hence the new year lambs.

But my little plan may have failed, and that is why new year may be a strained occasion. I went to see the flock the day after the ram had joined the ewes, in order to count the red crayon marks left by



the ram on the ewes' rumps. There were several, but not the neat businesslike ticks he left last year. This time he had a distinct blur. The reason was clear as soon as I glanced at the old boy — he was

limping like a codger with gout. This was serious. It was one of his back legs which, if you think about it, are more vital than his front ones when it comes to performing his duty. We treated him, and sent him

back to work hoping that he would now have all the support he so desperately needs and that the crayon marks would not slither down his sides any more.

Having sorted January, I decided to take the opportunity of ducking out of the pre-Christmas rush too, by getting Alice, the Large Black sow, in pig again. Sows gestate for precisely three months, three weeks and three days, so if she is served now she will require my undivided attention slap-bang in the middle of the Christmas shopping season.

I urgently rang round the local breeders to see who might have a Large Black boar. None being available, I decided to conduct an experiment I had been planning for some time: I am going to allow Alice a mixed marriage with a Large White boar. Logic dictates that such a match would provide grey pigs but, in fact, they turn out

spongy, like Dalmatians. They also make, apparently, excellent bacon.

Now, if so happens that friends have a Large White boar, called Cyril, I asked if Cyril was free. Not only was he free, he was willing. So Cyril arrived by trailer to join the ram in the potent chorus now resounding around the farm. I asked, casually, how they came by him and was told he had been given to them by a farmer who wanted rid of him: "He had trouble with his back leg. They were going to put him down but it seemed a shame."

I froze. Two lame lovers is too much for one farmer. I am already very gloomy about Christmas.

However, the secret of good farming is to plan ahead. I hear from my wife that some rather distant long-lost cousins are thinking of coming to stay, perhaps next July. I have been to the calendar and counted the days. If I can just get the bull here by next week...

TONY WHITE

Gardens to visit

□ Oxfordshire village gardens: The Old Rectory, at Salford, comprises one acre of roses, herbaceous borders and foliage plants, shrubs. Willow Tree Cottage has small, well-kept gardens with clematis, shrubs and herbaceous plants, heathers and alpine plants.
Salford, 1½-2m W of Chipping Norton (off the A44 Oxford-Worcester road). Tomorrow 2-6pm. £1, child free.

□ Yorkshire: The White House, at Husthwaite, has a one-acre garden, open for the first time with conservatory, shrubs and herbaceous plants, herb gardens and annuals.

Husthwaite, 3m N of Easingwold, garden in village centre, opposite church. Tomorrow 11am-3pm. £1, child 10p.

□ Warwickshire: Wyton Gardens, the display and trial grounds for the National Centre for Organic Gardening, has herbaceous plants, herbs, fruit, vegetable and rose beds and borders; compost-making.

Wyton, 5m S of Coventry on the B429 (off the A45 to Wolston). Plant sales, cafe with organic food. Open daily, 10am-6pm. (10am-4pm, Oct-Mar.) £3, child free.

Plum job with a tasty future

Francesca Greenoak visits the research nursery where 350 varieties of plums are evaluated and developed

GARDENING

where they are least likely to get frostbitten. Many Victoria and Collings Golden Gage, for example, are self-fertile, so may be planted singly in a small garden.

This year, after a frost-free spring, my two Victorias are heavy with fruit; local farmers with orchards are picking space, and in the hedgerows the Aylesbury Prune, our regional bitter-sweet damson, is cropping hugely.

David Pennell, the director of the Brogdale Horticultural Trust, near Faversham, Kent, says this is an exceptional plum year. The trust's fruit trial ground grows 350 varieties, and the orchards are open to the public. Visitors can taste varieties unavailable anywhere else, and buy freshly picked fruit (at 40p a lb).

Where else could you get the red dessert plum Mallard, raised by Rivers, the renowned Essex nursery, in the late 19th century, or the culinary damsons Curlew and Damson Early Rivers?

In addition to plums from all the famous British nurseries, such as Laxton and Alnwick, Brogdale has representatives from the best French, Belgian, German and American growers, and others even further afield. One can compare the English greengages (grown in Britain since the early 17th century) with the similar but larger French Reine Claude varieties.

New varieties as well as old are grown and evaluated at Brogdale, which has a scientific status. This year, for the first time, some new dessert plums bred at the Long Ashton research station, Bristol, will be available. These have a US

variety known as Reeve's Seedling, in their breeding and according to Mr Pennell are very promising.

Brogdale has changed over 20 years from an inward-looking government establishment closed to the public, to an open and outgoing outfit

NOW is the time to buy a woven fleece to protect autumn and winter salad vegetables. Laid lightly over a bed, it protects against damage from the wind, hail and heavy rains, and gives a degree of frost protection. New on the market is Agralan's long-life fleece, with reinforced edges, at £9.45 for 2.6m x 7m pack (tri-pegs for fixing down the fleece edges cost £2.99 for eight). The fleece, which is light enough to allow water and liquid fertiliser to pass through, and may be washed for re-use, is available from garden centres (or phone 0285 860015 for stockists).

It's time to pick sweetcorn

• Brogdale Gardens, just outside Faversham, Kent, will be open daily over the bank holiday weekend, 11am-5pm. Each day there will be guided walks through the collections (which include apples, pears and cherries), variety tastings and fruit for sale. Usual opening times Wed-Sun, 11am-5pm. £2, child free.

• Begin picking sweetcorn when the silk starts to wither.

• Plant hyacinths for Christmas flowering.

• Prune climbing and rambling roses after the flowers have faded.

• Take cuttings from santolina, artemesia and other grey-leaved shrubs.

• Cut back mints, marjoram and clivias to encourage new growth for late-season use.

• Take cuttings of zonal, ivy-leaved and scented geraniums (pelargonium).

• Prune out some of the old wood on honeysuckle.

Events

□ Birstall craft: Countryside skills, music and entertainment stalls and displays. Oakwell Hall Country Park, Birstall, W Yorks (0924 474261). Tomorrow, 11am-7pm. Free.

□ British Birdwatching Fair: Hundreds of stands and workshops, bird races, wildlife art exhibitions (including working artists plus high-quality birdwatching). Whitewell Fishing Lodge, Rutland Water, Oakham, Leics (0780 86770). Fri, 10am-5.30pm. £5, child 50p.

Tomorrow, 11am-7pm. Free.

□ British Birdwatching Fair: Hundreds of stands and workshops, bird races, wildlife art exhibitions (including working artists plus high-quality birdwatching). Whitewell Fishing Lodge, Rutland Water, Oakham, Leics (0780 86770). Fri, 10am-5.30pm. £5, child 50p.

Tomorrow, 11am-7pm. Free.

□ Crofters' flower show: Traditional country show including fruit, flowers, children's art and home-baking. Crofters' County Park, Liverpool, Merseyside (051 228 5311). Tomorrow and Mon, 11am.

□ Edenbridge and Oxted shows: Livestock competitions, produce and flowers. Ardingly, Tandridge Lane, Lingfield, Surrey (0737 645843). Tomorrow and Mon, 8am-5pm. £2, cones £2.

□ Eye show: Craft stalls, motor-cycle displays and the JCB Dancing Diggers. Showground, Dragon Hill, Eye, Suffolk (0799 870224). Tomorrow and Mon, 10am-7pm. £4.

□ Felinstowe carnival: Traditional pastimes and fair, with a parade and fireworks. Heben High School, Garrison Lane, Felinstowe, Suffolk (0394 282684). Today 2pm (parade 2pm) and tomorrow noon; fireworks 9pm. £1, child free.

□ Greenodd show: Fifteenth anniversary event, with classes for flowers, fruit and vegetables, floral art, cookery, handicrafts and children's work. Greenodd village hall, near Ulverston, Cumbria (0229 861317). Today, 2pm. £5, cones 50p.

□ Hawkshead walk: Leisurely ramble to Goosy Foot Tarn. Bring boots. Hawkshead Information Centre, Cumbria (05394 36523). Tomorrow, 10.30am. Free.

□ Keswick ramble: Grade 2 guided walk over Walla Craig, lasting 3-4 hours. Discovery Centre, Lake Road, Keswick (07687 72803). Tomorrow, 2pm. Free.

□ Southwell flower festival: The whole minster becomes a floral area, displays art based around the theme of pilgrimage. The Minster, Southwell, Nottinghamshire (0636 812649). Today and tomorrow, 10am-5pm. £2.

□ Wokingham horse trials: Bezier Horses pre-novice, novice and open novice classes. Wokingham Equestrian Centre, Finchampstead, Berks (0344 775549). Today and Sun, 10am. Free.

□ Worsbrough fair: Sheepdog trials, falconry, gun dog displays, open farm and a working corn mill. Worsbrough Country Park, Barnsley, S Yorks (0226 246272). Tomorrow and Mon, noon-5.30pm. £2, cones £1.

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Jacques

Defiant: long-tailed duck

winter they gather in numbers

of up to 15,000 — about 75

per cent of their population in Britain and Ireland.

The most recent example

comes with the granting of oil

exploration licences.

The government is indeed

consulting conservation bodies

about the areas of proposed sites.

Should we rejoice because now

only 25 per cent of the irreplacable wildlife habitats

will be affected? To

the advice of conservation

organisations is a bunch of fair-weather

conservationists. It will go along with the needs of

conservation until that point

arrives when conservation becomes

so slightly inconvenient, or a tiny bit against the demands of industry and money. And at that moment, all the platitudes about "commitment to the environment" go out of the window.

The most recent example

comes with the granting of oil

exploration licences.

Holiday tops and tails

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, with entertaining ideas for the long weekend



AFTER last week's cool meat main courses, here are some ideas for topping and tailing a meal. Like the meat recipes, they are capable of being doubled and tripled to suit a buffet table, or they can be served as part of a more formal meal. They are not difficult or expensive recipes, and do not keep you too long in the kitchen, which makes them ideal for bank holiday entertaining, if you have a house full of people.

I have cooked the bean dish several times during the summer as an alternative to hummus. Like the chickpea puree, it is very good with crudités or eaten with toast or warm pita bread. If you are cooking old beans with tough skins, you can rub these off after the beans have cooked. Drain and rinse the beans, and put in a bowl of cold water. Rubbing them between your fingers will cause the beans to pop out of their skins, which will float to the top of the water, so you can scoop them out.

The potato salad is excellent, an idea from my friend John Cavaciuti. The dried tomatoes were my idea, but the salad is just as good without them.

The first time I made the coconut ice-cream, I was rather taken aback. It tasted so well, commercial. The texture was extremely smooth and the flavour good. I had even made it with semi-skimmed milk, which was all I had in the refrigerator. Then it occurred to me that coconut, in one of its many guises, must play a large part in some of the "non-dairy" ice-creams that are produced. It is as well to be aware that it is a saturated fat, like dairy fat, but that said, it is a very good "ice", perhaps not an ice-cream, and at least you know exactly what goes into it. As well as the accompanying macaroons, I also like to serve it with jaggery, a treacle-like substance made from palm sugar. You can find it in Indian food shops, a hard chunk often wrapped in a sacking covering. I put it in a saucepan over a

low heat, with slightly more than an equal volume of water, let it melt, skim any impurities off the surface and then, when it is cool, pour it into a clean, dry plastic juice bottle, and keep it in the refrigerator. It is wonderful poured over thick Greek yoghurt, sprinkled with toasted seeds and nuts.

White bean puree

(makes about 1lb/455g)

- 2 sprigs summer savory or rosemary
- 4lb/230g jumbo lima beans, cannellini beans, haricot or butter beans
- 3 or 4 cloves fresh garlic, or more if you like
- extra virgin olive oil
- lemon juice
- freshly ground black pepper
- sea salt

Soak the beans overnight with a sprig of herbs. Change the water, and then cook until tender. Peel and roughly chop the garlic, and put in a blender or food processor with the beans, a couple of tablespoons of their cooking liquid, the fresh sprig of herbs, stripped from the stem, and about 4pt/70ml olive oil. Blend until smooth. Add a little of the lemon juice, salt and pepper, blend again, and adjust the seasoning. Spoon into a serving bowl.

Potato salad with Parma ham and dried tomatoes

(serves 4)

- 1½lb/680g small firm waxy potatoes, such as Belle de Fontenay, La Ratte or Pink Fir Apple
- 4 pieces dried tomato
- 3oz/85g Parma ham pieces
- 3oz/85g soured cream
- freshly ground pepper
- fresh lovage, shredded (optional)
- chives, shallots or spring onions (optional)

Scrub and boil the potatoes. While they are cooking, cut the tomato and ham into thin shreds. Drain the potatoes, and mix in the cream, pepper and herbs, and then add the ham and tomatoes. Make sure the salad is well mixed before serving it. If making this for larger numbers, among whom are

vegetarians, mix one large batch of potatoes with all the ingredients, except the Parma ham. Serve half the potatoes in one bowl, garnished with shreds of ham. Add stoned, chopped olives and toasted sunflower seeds to the other bowl.

Gazpacho

(serves 6-8)

- 2½lb/1.10kg ripe sweet tomatoes
- 1 large cucumber
- 1 or 2 green peppers
- 4pt/280ml extra virgin olive oil
- 10oz/280g fresh white breadcrumbs
- salt, pepper
- sherry vinegar
- iced water

You can keep the soup rough and rustic, or make a smoother version by peeling the vegetables. I find it slightly more digestible if I peel the peppers after roasting or grilling them. And having gone to that trouble, I usually also peel and seed the tomatoes, and then strip off most of the cucumber skin with

a potato peeler. The seeds can be scooped out, if you halve the cucumber lengthways.

Roughly chop the vegetables, separately, and keep back a little to chop finely and serve as a garnish together with the bread, crusts removed, and diced. Put the vegetables in a blender goblet or food processor, and blend until smooth. With the motor running, add the olive oil and breadcrumbs alternately. This can all be done in batches if necessary. Pour into a large bowl. Season to taste with salt, pepper and sherry vinegar, and add ice cubes to chill it thoroughly. If you prefer a thinner soup, iced water can also be added.

I have it on the best authority, María-José Sevilla, writer and presenter of *Spain on a Plate* (and author of the accompanying book of the same title), that there are as many versions of gazpacho as there are cooks who make it. There is one made of beans; a pale one, *gazpacho blanco*, made from ground almonds, and one in which melon is the base. It makes sense:

chilled melons are Spanish, sumptuous and full of liquid.

A French chef, based in Madrid, made the melon version for me once, and I rather liked it. I use the same method as outlined, replacing the tomatoes with a Galia or Honeydew melon, keep the cucumber, leave out the pepper, and use half breadcrumbs and half ground almonds. The olive oil is, of course, essential. For garnish, I serve diced melon, toasted flaked almonds and a little diced apple mixed with lemon juice.

Fruit shortbread

This is not so much a recipe, more a suggestion open to many permutations. I first made it with shortbread biscuits that I had made myself, and then one day, driving through Aberlour in Speyside, we came across the Joseph Walker village shop and bought the new farmhouse shortbread. It is perfect for this recipe, firm enough not to go soggy but tender and crumbly. Spread the shortbread pieces with a generous layer of thick yoghurt,

crème fraîche or whipped cream, flavoured with *éau de vie* or liqueur, if you like. Top this with sliced plums or strawberries, whole blackberries or apple slices, fried in butter. Dust with icing sugar or cinnamon, if appropriate. Whisky-flavoured whipped cream into which you have folded clear honey can be topped with toasted oatmeal and almonds, as another variation.

Creamy macaroons

(makes about 1pt/570ml)

Note: this recipe uses uncooked eggs

- 7fl oz/200ml milk
- 2oz/60g dessicated coconut
- ½lb/110g sugar
- 1tbsp cornflour

Mix all the ingredients together, which will produce a fairly firm paste, which can be shaped with two teaspoons into quenelles and placed on a baking tray lined with baking parchment. Bake in the middle of a pre-heated oven at 130C/350F, gas mark 4, for 15 minutes, and then for a further 15 minutes at 150C/300F, gas mark 2. Cool on a wire rack.

At last, a quality to call our own

English vignerons are beating the weather to produce fine wines, says Jane MacQuitty

Once a poor gustatory joke, now fit for the Queen and the president of France, English wine has arrived. No doubt wine connoisseur Sir Ewen Ferguson, the British Ambassador in Paris, knew just how helpful serving a 1989 Chiddington stone from Kent, at an embassy banquet this summer, would be to the burgeoning English wine industry.

But behind the headlines, and endless rounds of European diplomacy over the past decade, the vignerons of England, Wales and Ireland have been quietly improving their wine skills. Gone are the monstrous, malodorous English wines of old, reeking of common winemaking faults such as hydrogen sulphide and an excess of sulphur. In their place are elegant, light floral white wines whose refreshingly high acidity and low alcohol make them an ideal first course and fish wine as Sir Ewen demonstrated to the French.

With more than 1,000 of England's acres under vine, together with over 400 vineyards, English wine production, the French winemakers will be irritated to learn, is about to become part of the European wine hierarchy. As yet there is only a pilot quality English wine scheme in place, introduced last summer. But if the bureaucrats have their way and our acreage reaches 500 hectares and production rises to 25,000 hectolitres, then an official English quality wine scheme, our answer to the French *appellation contrôlée* system, could be established. Deemed still to be experimental, English wine now only fits into a lowly *vin de table* category.

Not all of England's vignerons are happy with their new European wine status; to date Europe's wine laws forbid the use of hybrids, hardy weather-resistant vine cross breeds such as *seyval blanc*, upon which the English wine industry relies. There is also the problem of the minimum natural 6 per cent wine alcohol level, which some varieties do not reach in cold years such as '91.

Clearly these two issues will have to be resolved before Britain can join the big European wine league.



Pride of England: not yet in the big league, but wineries such as Chiltern Valley are making their mark

Cold, frost and rain do not stop courageous, some would say foolhardy, Brits from planting in waterlogged vineyards

with the most impressive to date perhaps being the Beechdale Manor in Devon's 1990 Cabernet-Merlot blend. The use of new grape crosses and better vineyard management, including protecting the grapes from predators such as birds and badgers and leaving grapes to ripen fully, have also raised English wine quality.

Despite these encouraging wine trends, faulty English wines with basic errors such as dirty winemaking tanks, or an overdose of sulphur, continue to be made. Thankfully, these problems are now in the minority. But a criticism that can still be applied to the

majority is often a lack of fruit and flavour. In part this skinny style is due to our climate: the worse examples are those extra dry, extra thin English wines that suffer from the same problems as Germany's characterless, bone-dry trocken wines. However, England's wine producers of both the dry and more common medium-dry style need to concentrate more on ringing every ounce of fruit flavour and individuality from their grapes. Another contributing factor to the somewhat uniform, lean, flowery English wine style could be the fact that many of the smaller producers send their grapes away to be vinified at the nearest large winery.

English wine's biggest problem, apart from its high price-tag, is our poor climate. Although most English wine producers are reluctant to admit it, Britain is on the most northerly latitude for grape growing. This means that despite ameliorating influences such as the Gulf Stream and even the green-house factor, English wine in many vintages, including this year and last, will be severely hampered by cold, frost and rain.

However, this does not stop courageous, some would say foolhardy, Brits from planting vines as far north as Cheshire (for example, the new nine-acre Carden Park estate) or in north-facing, water-

Best buys

• 1990 Valley Vineyards Fumé Harcourt Fine Wine, 3 Harcourt Street, London W1, £9.15; Wine Rack and Bottom Up, £7.95

Splendid aromatic oily bouquet and stylish, grapey palate puts this ahead of the English wine pack.

• 1990 Tenterden Cuvee Perl

Davsons, £4.49, which also stocks the '86 vintage for the same price. Asda has the '89 for £3.99; Safeway, £4.19; Vic Wine, £4.79

A good, reasonably priced, spicy, flowery introduction to the delights of English wine.

• Lamberhurst Sovereign, Medium Dry

Sainsbury, £3.75; Davsons, £4.49

Almost as pleasant as the wine above, though slightly sweeter and made from a variety of grapes, this is a very easy-drinking white.

• Denbies Surrey Gold

Safeway, £5.25; The Victoria Wine Company, £5.49

Denbies grapey peachy flavours are elevated by a touch of riesling.

• 1989 Bowl Valley Bacchus

Oakhurst, £6.99

This excellent organic English wine displays the exotic fruit and spice of the bacchus grape.

logged, frost-pocket vineyards. Still our new-found winemaking and managing abilities should enable some of England's winemakers to overcome the worst of our weather.

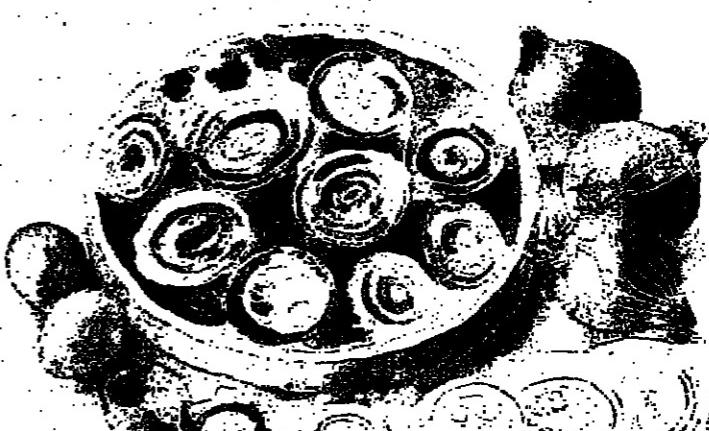
England's best wines are mostly of medium-dry, Germanic style that have had their harsh corners rubbed off with some sweetening, usually in the shape of sugar reserve or unfermented grape juice. Purists need not worry: these wines mostly taste fruity rather than overly sweet.

A newer, drier English wine style, more akin, say, to the dry, northern, oak-aged whites of France, is also emerging, with Valley Vineyards Fumé and Tenterden's Special Reserve the most successful example of this style.

A good place to taste and buy English wine is the English Wine Festival, held next weekend from 11am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, at the English Wine Centre, Alfriston Roundabout, Alfriston, East Sussex (0323 870164). The entrance fee each day is £7.25 a head, which includes eight tasting vouchers and a wine glass. More than 40 English wine producers will take part, offering more than 100 wines to taste.

English wine devotees should also visit Harcourt Fine Wine, 3 Harcourt Street, London W1, which has almost 70 different English and Welsh wines on sale.

FRENCH CLASSICS TARTE AUX OIGNONS A L'ALSACIENNE OR ZEWELWAI



A reader has asked me not to complete my series on classic French dishes without including onion tart. I have no intention of doing so, because I agree that this dish is not the same as quick Lorraine. The two are from neighbouring regions, but in the quiche it is the quality of the custard and the pastry that are important, while in the onion tart, only sufficient egg and cream is added to bind the onion together.

The Alsace dish takes more time and patience than the quiche. The onions must be cooked very slowly to achieve a translucent melting texture, and a sweet flavour without the caramelisation that comes from too high heat. Look for mild, sweet onions. Freshly dug bulbs can be used; indeed, in Alsace they are made with spring onions, adding some of the green tops.

The best *tarte aux oignons* — or *zewelwai* to use its Alsace name — I have tasted was in the Caveau d'Eguisheim, a restaurant started more than 30 years ago by Léon Beyer, the father of one of the present-day winemakers, as a showpiece for Alsace food and wine. We drank a crisp 1985 riesling with the tart.

For the filling:

- 3oz/85g butter
- 1½lb/680g peeled and thinly sliced onions
- 1tbsp flour
- ½pt/280ml single cream or full-cream milk
- salt, pepper
- freshly grated nutmeg
- 3 size-3 free-range eggs

Melt the butter in a heavy frying pan and gently fry the onions until just starting to turn colour. Remove from the heat, sprinkle on the flour. Bring to the boil, stirring continuously, and cook for five minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and grind in a little fresh nutmeg. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, away from the heat.

Line a 10in/25cm quiche or pie dish with pastry; pour in the filling. Place the dish on a baking sheet in a pre-heated oven, 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for about 35 minutes, until the top is golden brown. Can be served at any temperature; I prefer it warm.

F.B.

● This is the last in our series of French classic recipes.

Up to 15%
off

Crafty new change of plot

Over the counter: How do farmers with set-aside land spend their time?

Helen Speed finds an answer

The typical farm shop used to be an eggs-and-potatoes affair with, in Somerset, the enticement of Cheddar cheese. Now, on the A41 in Buckinghamshire, between Aylesbury and Bicester, farmer William Hunter has found ways of keeping a set-aside farm alive with home-baked cakes, silk scarves and furniture, and for townsfolk a glimpse of the rural life.

A small herd of Highland cattle, red and the rarer black variety, provides its own photo-opportunity as you drive into the yard. Mr Hunter brought them down from his native Scotland.

His is the farm where, they say, the Aylesbury duck originated, but the pond, "2ft of water, 12ft of solid mud", was filled in to become a tennis court after a small Hunter nephew almost fell in. The only large birds to be seen around the farm now are wooden geese hand-crafted as garden decorations and awaiting buyers.

Fleet Marston farmhouse, said to be 340 years old, has 200-year-old outbuildings which are being restored one by one as the customers' needs expand. The business started seven years ago with eggs and potatoes sold at the back door, then Anne Hunter added cakes, pies and other home-bakes that were so popular that they had to persuade neighbouring farmers' wives to get out their baking bowls and lend a hand.

Now, 17 people are involved in producing the appetising spread of meringues, jams, ice-cream, quiches, chutneys and pickled onions, each doing what they do best.

At weekends, a judge stocks up with the farm shop's pies to microwave during the week at his home in London.

Mr Hunter says that most customers return, and to keep them coming the merchandise has to evolve.

From lambswool sweaters to teddy bears, the gifts on offer are high-quality items, as are the wraps and stationery sold alongside. Mr Hunter's farm is the only place to go locally on a Sunday for a last-minute greetings card.

The Hunters bought the farm in 1963 from Mrs Hunter's parents, and over the years dairy cattle and cattle-fattening kept them busy. "In the late 1960s, and then in the 1970s, the government encouraged us to drain the land and there was a good subsidy," Mr Hunter says. "Then we were encouraged to produce corn, which we did until two years ago, when the market

went downhill. The growing costs were high, returns poor, and then along came the set-aside grant.

"We sowed the land down to grass, producing hay for the horses and deer. The Highland cattle are just my hobby and I've given them to my daughter Jeanie, who coordinates our catering."

With George, a toddler grandson claiming his knee from time to time, Mr Hunter talked in the farmhouse kitchen after another weekend's pies, plants and peppercorns had all been sold. A daily helper was already at work, turning out fairy cakes for the Monday bakers.

Things are going well, and Mr Hunter sounds guff only on the subject of "MPs and retired MPs who aren't fit to run a business themselves, attacking farmers who are doing their best".

"We aim to do what the supermarkets do not do," he says, "and our good fortune is to be close to a very busy main road. It wouldn't work if we were a mile up a farm track."

His enthusiasm for the business has convinced the whole family. They all join in. Son Andrew is a partner, daughter-in-law Caroline runs the office, and daughter Elaine helps wherever she is needed.

It is Mrs Hunter's discerning taste that marks the merchandise. "It's just a case of what sells," she says. "I buy in what I like myself, and it seems to work. Everything is as home-made as we can make it — we choose British brands, and sell only English wines."

Her husband is the planner, deciding which gap to fill next, which outhouse to transform from near-collapse to burnished perfection. Their first shop was in an old workshop, and then he extended the selling space into two loose-bays, then an old tithe barn.

Two years ago he opened a gallery selling pine furniture, with old and new dressers, tables, chairs and mirrors, bought in from Galway or Galloway or some other corner of these islands".

Even before he was wooing the customer to Buckinghamshire, Mr Hunter was never a keep-toones-out kind of countryman: "I pity them, because to me London and big towns are concrete jungles. I'd live in a but-and-been up the side of a mountain first. You can't wonder that city people have to get out and see what's in the wider world, and their need can be a great opportunity for people in the countryside," he says.



All good things around us: Anne and William Hunter with their harvest of farm shop fare, from pies to carved pine

says. "It's up to us to create interest, and anyone about to diversify should do something they will enjoy, whether it is running a weekend disco or some other entertainment."

Mr Hunter's family had always been farmers, but the way they moved south from Scotland is a storyline many a television series would find hard to better. The youngest of five sons, Mr Hunter moved south from Mauchline, in Ayrshire, when his widowed mother, Annie Mair Hunter, hired a railway train to take her boys and her entire farm ("eight Clydesdale horses, a hundred head of cattle") to Manor Farm, three miles up the road from Fleet Marston. Young Willie slept on a luggage rack on the journey, with Jock, the family collie ("aged nine and a half, the same age

as me") on the one opposite. The Hunters rented additional farms over the years, spreading themselves, but essentially they always farmed as a family. Mr Hunter met his wife-to-be, then a nurse, when a sack of corn fell off a lorry and broke his ankle.

Her father was about to sell Fleet Marston farm so young Hunter and his bride decided to buy it. Mrs Hunter had been born in what is now the guest room.

Mr Hunter claims not to know the price of a fairy cake, home-baked pie or a pot of fresh herbs; he tends to drive a JCB and look like the hired help. What he enjoys is thinking ahead. Before the year is out, he intends to provide a tearoom, and after that, perhaps, a small museum of old farming implements, rural an-

tiques for the city folk to see. But there are some things he is not allowed to offer them: "I would love to be able to sell good Scots beef and Ayrshire bacon if I could," he says.

Nevertheless, despite the silk scarves and upmarket greeting cards, he still sells eggs and potatoes. And on darkening Sunday afternoons, by a log fire, he and his wife find it hard to resist a slice or two of

this English loaf treatment of a Scottish bannock recipe: Bannock fruit loaf. Soak overnight: 1lb mixed dried fruit and 4cup of soft dark brown sugar in one cup of cold tea. Next day, mix in 1 egg and 1/2cup of self-raising flour. Add cherries or nuts, if you like. Bake in a 1lb lined loaf tin for an hour in a pre-heated oven, at 180C/350F. Slice and spread with butter.

While some people are

Opening time for oysters

With an 'r' in the month coming up, it's good news for shellfish-lovers

The native oyster season started early this year. Without waiting for an 'r' in the month, the civic dignitaries of Colchester, Essex, planned to take to small boats yesterday for their official opening ceremony.

Out in mid-channel on such occasions, the town clerk, John Cobley, reads a proclamation, couched in splendidly archaic phraseology. The mayor, who this year is Councillor Mary Frank, ceremonially dredges the first oyster and the season is toasted with gin and gingerbread.

Then the whole company of about 60 councillors and council officers puts ashore on Pessett Island, a salting off Mersea, to take a meal in an old packing shed.

The first course is 300 native oysters, supplied, as their lease from the council demands, by the Colchester Oyster Fishery Company. "There is always an alternative option," Graham White, the deputy town clerk, admits, "because some people cannot face oysters."

The burghers of Colchester paid £26 a head for the Pessett Island picnic. Those who wish to attend the famous, and more formal, Colchester Oyster Feast, held at the end of October in the town's Moot Hall, will stump up £31 each. For that the Colchester Oyster Fishery Company provides 1,700 or so flat, round, smooth-shelled natives.

Colchester's dignitaries are sensitive to any suggestions that their oyster planters might be subsidised from council coffers because, in the days when oysters were plentiful, the oyster feast used to be a popular free-for-all.

Expense puts some people off oysters. For others it is a squeamish objection to consuming anything which is still alive. And for others again it is some bout of execrable illness associated with oyster consumption in the past.

Con Guerin, the manager of the Atlantic Shellfish Company in Cork, which provides many of the "natives" eaten in British hotels and restaurants, advises: "Never drink whisky, brandy or other strong, coloured spirits after eating oysters. They react together, and the stomach rejects both. The traditional drinks to go with oysters are stout or white wine, and with these you should not go wrong."

ROBIN YOUNG



Party guests put to the test

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

SARAH STANDING



never wants any other kind of birthday party, ever.

Now we're back in London we do a fair amount of entertaining. We eat in the kitchen, no dining-room for us; it's just straight from the stove. If we have masses of people, everyone just wanders around and larks around at 3am.

Afterwards, we'll sit talking. In America they're all gone by 11.30pm; they're terrified of staying up late. But in England we're all still laughing and larking around at 3am.

I have absolutely no sense of proportion: I cook for an army. I like to make huge things that people can dive into — fish pies, chicken pies or legs of lamb with masses of vegetables underneath that cook at the same time.

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We have a real mixture of people: anybody and everybody. It's very casual. If somebody happens to call up at the right time, I'll probably ask them round for dinner. Usually it's a pretty eclectic group. I don't worry whether they get on or not; I find if they're eating and drinking and are comfortable, they always do.

They decorate the cake themselves. It gets covered with rocks, flowers, drawings, plastic animals, huge candles, tiny candies and sweets. It's like Trooping the Colour on top of the cake, in fact it's almost... inedible because they've pushed so many things into the icing.

I'm very organised, and speedy. I can get the children into bed by seven o'clock and come back into a deserted kitchen — but in three-quarters of an hour dinner will be made and I'll be upstairs

Interview by Paddy Bart

• Sarah Standing is the daughter of Bryan Forbes and Nancie Newman, and is married to the actor John Standing (Sir John Leon). They have three children — Archie, seven, and Tilly, two.

• Sarah Standing's chocolate bread and butter pudding

1 small loaf chocolate bread (from Sainsbury's or Harrods)

6 pieces of white sliced bread, with the crusts on

1 pt milk

3 eggs

a little sugar

Butter a dish that is about 10in round and 3in high. Slice chocolate bread, and butter lightly on each side. Butter both sides of the white bread, and cut into quarters. Then alternate white and coloured bread into two layers. Mix a pint of milk with three eggs and pour on top. Sprinkle on a little sugar to your taste and put in an oven at 200C/400F for about half an hour, until it's crispy and brown. It should rise quite considerably. Serve with vanilla ice-cream or cream.

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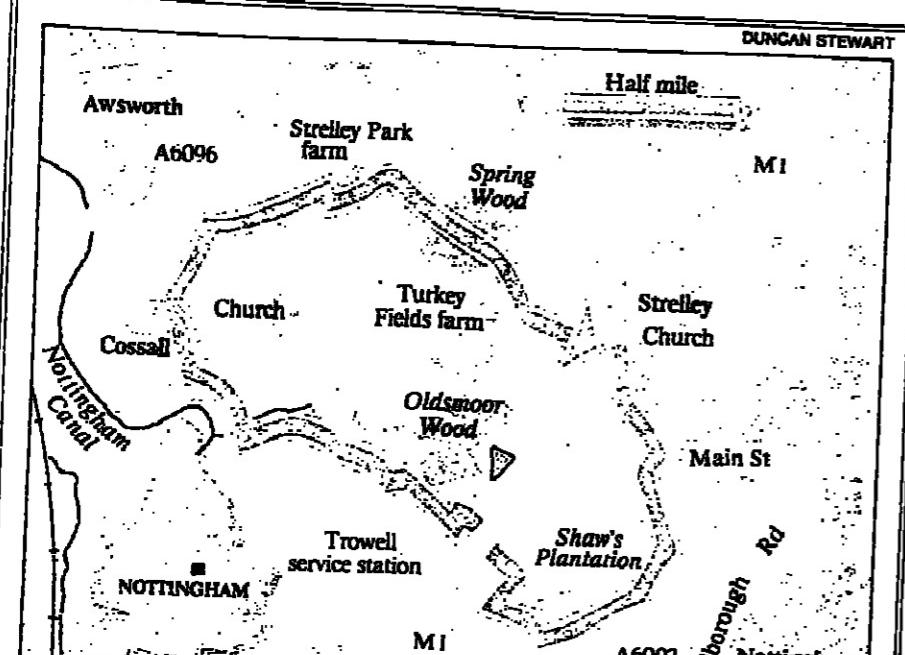
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WHERE TO WALK

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE has an abundance of walks — about 2,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways — through pleasant, if largely unspectacular, country-side. The list is headed by the 88-mile Robin Hood's Way, which begins at Nottingham castle and, after meandering through and around Sherwood forest, ends at the church in the village of Edwinstowe.

Within the forest are half a dozen circular walks of between five and ten miles. They and Robin Hood's Way are described and illustrated in two excellent booklets (available for £3.25 each from the County Council, Trent Bridge House, Fox Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BJ).

Given such a choice it might seem perverse to choose a walk which twice crosses the M1 motorway. The reasons in my case were its proximity to the city, its associations with D.H. Lawrence, and a curiosity to see how far the motorway impinged on the rural peace.

From the start of the five-mile walk, near the lovely sandstone All Saints church in Strelley, the noise is a dull, continuous roar, rather as though one were standing next door to a large waterfall or mill race. Strelley, named after the Norman landowner William de Stradleigh, is no more than a straggle of houses and is curiously difficult to find.

From a sharp bend in the road (OS Landranger map reference 508 418) follow the bridlepath for a short distance, then take the footpath to the right which leads southwest past the bottom of a wood, by which time the noise is a mere distant hum; the stiles have recently been replaced by smart new gates. When you come to another bridlepath, turn right again down to a dingy tunnel under the motorway. On the far side continue west until you reach a lane (ref: 486 418), which crosses the disused Nottingham canal and leads to the attractive village of Cossall.

The first coal in Nottinghamshire was mined near Cossall in 1316, and nearly eight centuries later there are posters



Writer's past: D.H. Lawrence country

everywhere denouncing new opencast mining proposals. Parts of St Catherine's church date from the 13th century, and next door is a row of 17th-century almshouses. Nearby Church Cottage was the home of Louise Burrows, Lawrence's fiancée, which features as Honeymoon Cottage in his novel *The Rainbow*.

Take the path from Church Lane, and turn right down the hill to a footbridge. Follow the grassed path up a field, through a gateway to the brow of a hill with good views across the countryside (ref: 485 428). Continue with the hedge on your right until you reach a car road which leads past Strelley Park farm. Take another right turn to Spring Wood (ref: 497 428), formerly ancient forest but completely replanted 30 years ago.

Continue on past Turkey Fields farm until you reach a waymarked bridleway. Turn left towards the road of the motorway, which this time is crossed by a bridge, and back into Strelley.

On a wall of Nottingham castle hangs a striking painting, by Henry Dawson, of the raising of the Royal Standard on Castle Hill on August 22, 1642. Historians tend to cavil at suggestions that this event marked the start of the Civil War, pointing out that fighting had broken out in several parts of Britain weeks earlier. Recently a war of words threatened between Nottingham and Hull, which says that the crucial event was Hull's refusal to admit Charles' forces into the city.

Be that as it may, posterity has it that the king's defiant gesture en route from York to London marked the decisive breach with Parliament, and was the catalyst that plunged his country into the tragic and bloody conflict that culminated in his own execution.

The Royal Armouries' touring exhibition of Civil War arms and armour is enshrined in Nottingham castle museum, giving local people the opportunity to muse on their city's past. Some such reminder is long overdue. Contemporary Nottingham tends to conceal, even belittle, its notable and frequently violent past.

Its claim to the status of a provincial capital is supported by the presence of a university, two thriving theatres — the Playhouse and the Theatre Royal — two of the country's leading football teams, the famous cricket ground at Trent Bridge and a generous quota of museums and galleries. But at first sight it presents itself as nothing much more than a medium-sized Midlands city, much of its ancient character destroyed by postwar redevelopment and one-way traffic systems.

The city's most enduring popular association is with the legendary sheriff, the arch enemy of Robin Hood, but the medieval castle has long since vanished. The film crew making the newest outlaw epic, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, found its 19th-century successor wholly unsuitable, and even nearby Sherwood forest too sanitised, and was forced to seek more convincing locations in France.

But all is not what it seems. Closer acquaintance reveals a city which retains a robust identity, and much of interest. Like Norwich, it is a city of hills in the middle of a predominantly flat landscape. There are still fine views, a legacy of good if not great buildings, quiet peaceful lanes and alleyways, and splendid pubns. Nearly 50 years ago the historian A.L. Rowse described it as "a magnificent town, full of improbable splendours", and to a considerable extent his verdict holds good.

The significance of the site, where an ancient highway crossed the river Trent, was recognised at least as early as the 6th century, when it was settled by the Anglo-Saxons. Its subsequent period of Danish occupation is commemorated in street names such as Fishergate, Fletchergate, Listergate, Pilchergate, and Wheelergate, marking its importance as a craft centre and trading post.

William the Conqueror lost no time in ordering the replacement of the wooden Saxon fort by a stone castle, and a wall was built to divide the new "French borough" from the earlier Saxon settlement in order, it was said, to prevent quarrelling. He seemed to have acted with a certain foresight, since the events of subsequent centuries proved the citizens of Nottingham to be a rowdy and rumbustious lot.

The would-be King John used the castle as his headquarters during his attempts to usurp his brother, Richard the Crusader, and it was from its walls, after he succeeded to the throne, that Richard set out from the castle to lose first his horse and then his life at the battle of Bosworth.

From then on the castle's

prominent role in the nation's history declined. Despite

Charles I's theatrical gesture at

the start of the Civil War, it

became a Roundhead garrison,

which beat off a succession of

Royalist assaults. After the war

its destruction was ordered, and

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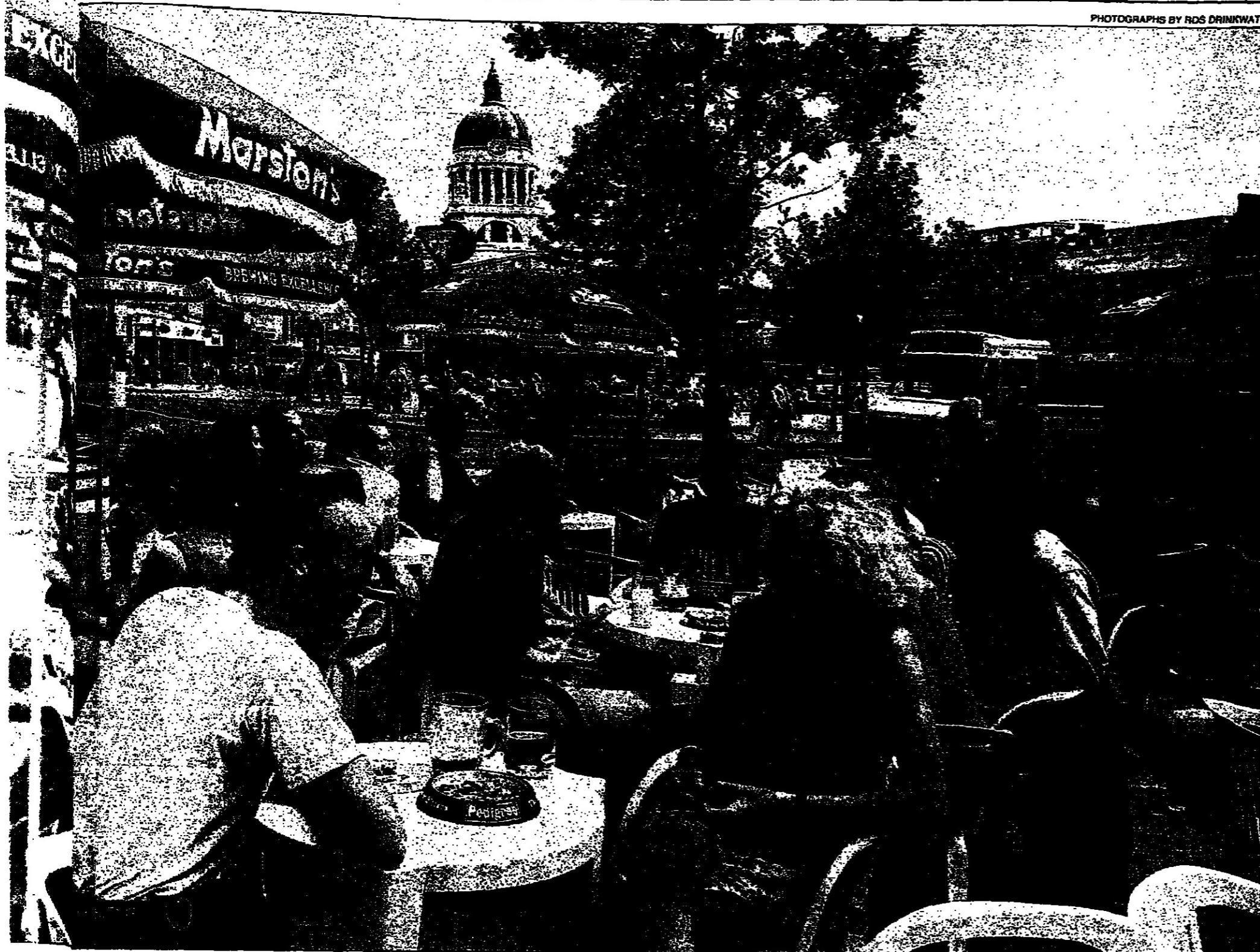
monarchs, parliaments were

held in Nottingham in the 14th

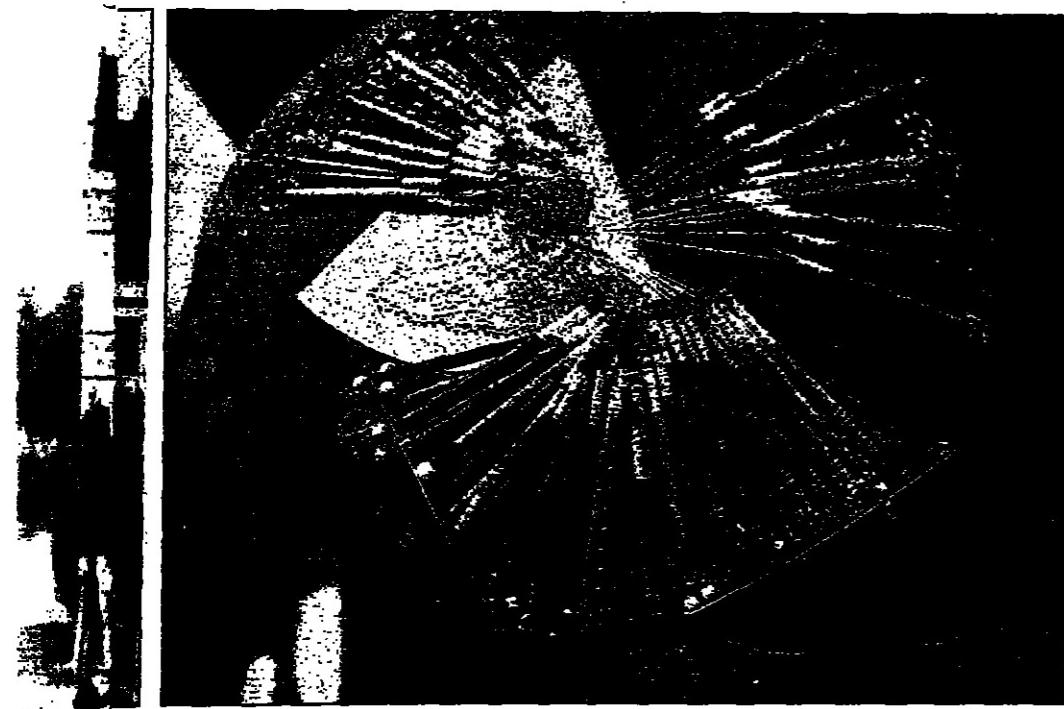
century, and in 1485 another

Richard set out from the castle

GETTING AWAY



...in the peace that reigns today in Nottingham city centre, a far cry from the industrial successes — and excesses — of the early 19th century that made it a hotbed of civil unrest



Up to Jerusalem in Brewhouse Yard, and lacemaking tools on display in the Lace Hall

church and rebuild it was left only narrowly. Instead, members of Victorian embankments were commissioned, digging the roof of the nave, stalls, bishop's throne and apse, all designed by Sir John Scott. Another notable century feature is the revere, Soddy and Garner. Nottingham's industrial success, however, also brought with it one of the worst excesses of squalor and squalor that has ever witnessed. Between 1750 and 1830 the population quintupled, turning its pleasant and beautiful into a vast, wretched slum.

Farmworkers poured into the city in search of employment, fields and orchards were destroyed to make way for back-to-back houses, while the basic elements of drainage and street maintenance were ignored. Much of the blame was attributed to an unofficial alliance between landowners and the city corporation, who refused to allow the city to expand beyond its historic boundaries. Trapped in inhuman conditions, thousands died from disease, starvation and suicide and were buried in mass graves. It is hardly surprising that Nottingham became a hotbed of civil unrest. It was the scene of some of the earliest action by the Luddites, followed by immovable strikes, and the Reform Bill riots which led to the burning of the castle.

The city's turbulent history is well recorded both in the Castle Museum and in the Museum of Daily Life, housed in a row of 17th-century townhouses below the castle walls. The area, known as Brewhouse Yard, originally contained a brewery and several taverns, one of which, The Trip to Jerusalem, survives. Dating from 1189, it claims to be the oldest inn in England, and a pint or two in

one or other of its honeycomb bars is recommended.

A complete contrast to the intensity of urban life is provided a few miles away at Newstead Abbey, the family home of Lord Byron. Set beside a lake in an exquisite 300-acre park, it is one of the few medieval religious buildings to have been successfully converted into a private residence.

In Byron's time it was neglected and largely uninhabited, and in any case the poet's restless wanderings took him abroad for much of his life. In 1817 financial difficulties compelled him to sell the estate to his friend, Colonel Thomas Wildman, who, with the help of a fortune inherited from the Jamaican plantations, set about restoring it. Since 1931 it has been owned by the City of Nottingham and is admirably preserved and presented.

Inevitably, Robin Hood has become Nottingham's biggest selling point, and visitors are almost expected to make the pilgrimage a few miles north to Sherwood Forest. Only two substantial fragments remain of the ancient forest, which in medieval times occupied about 100,000 acres; much of the area has been converted to farmland or commercially planted with conifers.

Sherwood has also suffered from the inroads of mining, which have caused subsidence, created pollution, damaged trees and interfered with underground watercourses. No matter. There is a well-managed 450-acre country park, much of it ancient oakland, including the famous giant Major Oak, reckoned to be at least 600 years

old. The visitor centre tends to the theme-park approach, with plenty of jousting, jesting and other "olde English" frivolities: the children love it.

For those without the time or inclination to make the journey to the real Sherwood, there is always the Tales of Robin Hood, an award-winning interactive "experience". Visitors are transported on electric cars "back through time", with sights,

smells and sounds recreating the authentic atmosphere.

In the heart of historically lawless Nottingham, the great outlaw lives on.

The Royal Armouries Civil War Exhibition, supported by The Times, will be at the Castle Museum, Nottingham, until Sept 20. The exhibition can then be seen at the City Art Gallery and Museum, Worcester, Sept 26-Jan 3 1993, and at the Corinium Museum, Cirencester, Jan 9-March 28 1993.



Spoilt for choice: the Forte Crest, one of the best

★ WHERE TO STAY ★

- For a city of its size, Nottingham is unusually well supplied with hotels and guest houses at all levels. Near the top of the list is the Forte Crest (0602 470131) which, whatever one's views of hotels owned by large chains, is distinctly a cut above the average of its kind. A female colleague was particularly impressed by the large Lady Crest room which, for once, had been designed and furnished to meet a woman's needs.
- Recession and the need to achieve higher occupancy rates have stimulated a range of weekend bargains. The Forte Crest charges £75 a night, room only, midweek, but offers dinner, bed and breakfast for £41 a head at weekends. Single rooms at the Royal Moat House (0602 414444), next door to the Theatre Royal, are reduced from £67 a night midweek to £28.50 on Fridays and Saturdays.
- Even better value is provided by the so-called Robin Hood rate, which embraces most of the city's main hotels. Those in the top group, which includes the above as well as the Ratcliff Gate hotel, an impressive warehouse conversion (0602 41114), and the Stakis Victoria (0602 419561), offer weekend bed and breakfast for £29 a night single and £49 double. The George (0602 475041), on the edge of the Lace Market, is £22.50 single, £44 double.
- Among the smaller hotels, the Regency House (0602 474520) is convenient and comfortable but, because of the weekend special offers by its larger competitors, the price differential is less marked than before. Singles from £39.50 midweek, £29.50 weekends, doubles £49.50.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London (Gatwick) to Amsterdam and drive to the KD Vessel at Nijmegen. Embark and sail.

DAY 2 Cologne and Braubach A morning in Cologne — see the largest cathedral in Germany and explore the city with its excellent museums and romanesque churches. Sail along the Rhine in the afternoon to Braubach. After dinner on board enjoy a stroll through the town with its half-timbered houses, attractive inns and enjoy its medieval character.

DAY 3 Sailing along the Rhine. A day to relax on the river enjoying its stunning scenery. Alternatively join an excursion in the afternoon to Heidelberg including dinner in this most attractive Rhine town. Arrive Speyer in the evening.

DAY 4 Strasbourg A morning on the river followed by an afternoon in the enchanting city of Strasbourg. See the minster and the old quarter, Quai de la Petite France and the covered bridges.

DAY 5 Basel A morning on the river. After lunch disembark at Basel and continue by train to Lucerne for a 3 night stay at the Montana Hotel.

DAYS 6 & 7 Lucerne Relax, walk and explore this lovely lakeside town. A cruise on the lake is included.

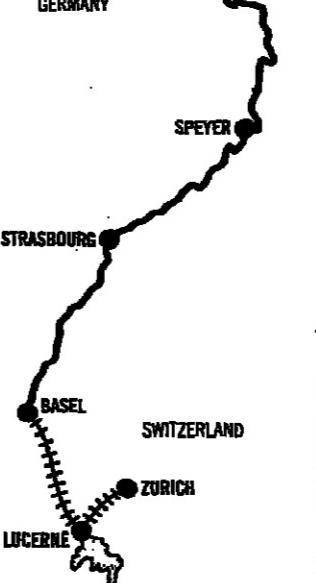
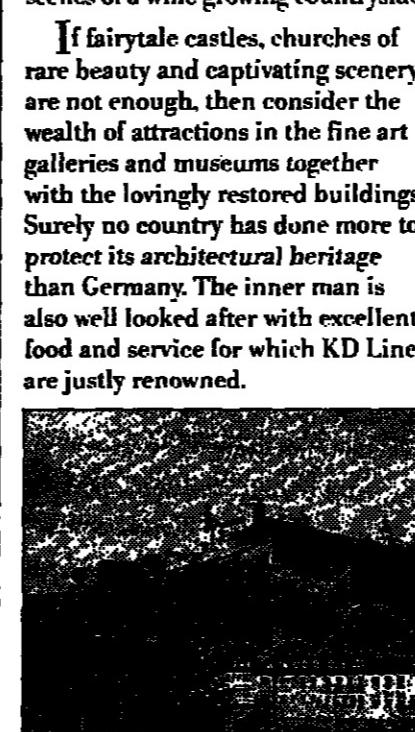
DAY 8 Zurich-London Travel by train to Zurich and connect with scheduled flights to London Gatwick.

RHINE JOURNEY

AN AUTUMN FOLIAGE AND WINE HARVEST CRUISE

Visiting Nijmegen-Cologne-Braubach-Speyer-Strasbourg-Basel-Lucerne

If fairytale castles, churches of rare beauty and captivating scenery are not enough, then consider the wealth of attractions in the fine art galleries and museums together with the lovingly restored buildings. Surely no country has done more to protect its architectural heritage than Germany. The inner man is also well looked after with excellent food and service for which KD Line are justly renowned.



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Loreley Deck, Upper and lower berth	£99
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Loreley Deck, Two beds	£789
RhineDeck, Single	£815

Price includes: Scheduled economy air travel, first class rail travel in Switzerland, 4 nights on KD vessel on full board, 3 nights at Hotel Montana including breakfast daily and one dinner, free half bottle of wine with lunch and dinner on board, Lake Lucerne cruise, services of tour manager.

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A set of three shore excursions are available at a cost of £13.00 — including dinner in Heidelberg.

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I would think not all are duns for that matter. They want to stand back a little what they are doing.

Many people say how peaceful a life must be," he said. "But it's not something that convinces me terribly. I see for most of us working life is quite hectic. There are times when the monastery life is like a kicked ant heap. I don't know what they probably mean by peace and quiet which is with the absence of stress and stress, but the peace seeing people with a sense of space, a commitment and to their lives."

Come on a retreat to say you write to the abbot who is accepted. Men are said to be guests in the story, with free accommodation and meals with the abbot. It is left to individuals to donation for their keep. Men are met by the master, who takes them to room and if it is a first visit, shows them round.

Brother Pascal, who came to Buckfast in 1927, when he was 16, spent 11 years at work on building the abbey, 30 looking after the bees and 20 in the kitchen. Now his working hours are taken up with housework

and making 20 gallons of beer a week, and some cider, for the monks' lunch.

He and three of the other builder-monks acquired their building skills from the fifth, Brother Peter, the only trained mason among them, who made all the nave arches himself and died at 92. Father Richard did the filling in on the walls, the brother Hilary mixed the

ANGELA WIGGLESWORTH

Buckfast Abbey is open 5.45am-9.30pm every day and visitors are welcome to all services. Books on retreats include *The Good Retreat Guide*, by Stafford Whitaker (Rider, £9.99); *Away From It All*, by Geoff Crayford (Lutterworth Press, £6.95); *Out of This World*, by George Target (Bishopsgate Press, £7.95/£4.95pbk).



A little proud: Brother Pascal, one of the five builder-monks

come at the abbey services, and days are spent reading, meditating, praying, or wandering through the monastery's riverside woods and meadows.

Brother Pascal, who came to Buckfast in 1927, when he was 16, spent 11 years at work on building the abbey, 30 looking after the bees and 20 in the kitchen. Now his working hours are taken up with housework

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reading room, veranda, sun deck, sauna, solarium and gift shop.

Telephone 071-481 4000

Solution below

material, which fit you see how?

scher snappet up. Can

you see how?

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The Times bank holiday jumbo

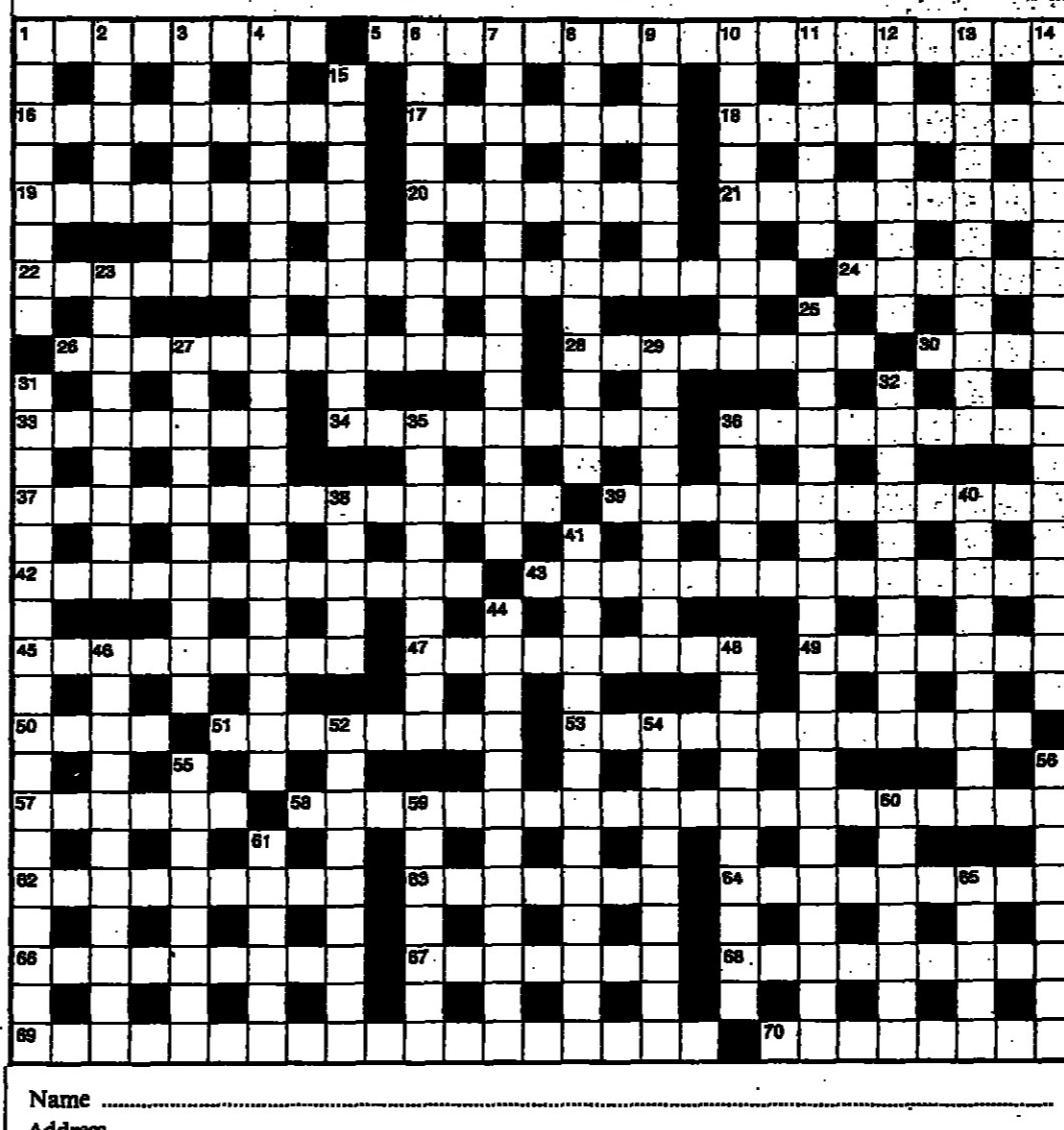
ACROSS

- 1 A scorn I'd displayed could be this (8)
 5 Artist or poet wins over town (6,12)
 16 Make a fuss and prepare for punitive strike, say (5,4)
 17 It's rash to take flower-girl round Californian city (7)
 18 Drink to enliven old man (6,3)
 19 A spirited filly in the Oaks? (4-5)
 20 Needed to make connections? A Duke's more appropriate (7)
 21 Warm covers needed for China — or special coats. I see (3-6)
 22 Size of error's irrelevant — female's no worse than male I replaced (1,4,2,2,4,2,1,4)
 23 This person's first name (6)
 26 Date on clinic rebuilt at the same time, by chance (12)
 28 Dominate with extra support (8)
 30 Northern resort where anything's allowed? (4)
 33 Side-splitting article by philosopher about part of body (7)
 34 Wife sorts out what's least tidy (9)
 36 Blows for sunny opportunists (9)
 37 Power of intellect to count beyond 1,000 in port (4,4,6)
 39 When confused, it is, perhaps, Rome's lead he needs (6,6)
 42 Calling in porter — it's spreading along line (9-3)
 43 Off-putting type (14)
 45 Short train dispatched — one must be moved (9)
 47 Replacing old net, it's fittingly introduced (7,2)
 49 Backing nothing in a measure? It's a rhetorical question (7)
 50 One goes from pier to pier, full of craft (4)
 51 Approaches experts about tax (8)
 53 I, and most of the staff, favouring private ownership (12)
 57 Arrested Greek islander taken back (6)
 58 American's heart of gold gradually revealed in book (4,2,6,2,6)
 62 Ketch's job on river, to dock and take one aboard (9)
 63 One weapon includes parts of the other one (7)
 64 Tender as result of sportive blow? Nothing in it (5-4)
 66 Like descriptive verse unfair to elders in one OT book (9)
 67 Shot one new sort of movie (5-2)
 68 Coward's dramatic success in train (9)
 69 Curtain's raised — sold out for the play (7,3,8)
 70 A large number of garden pots (8)

DOWN

- 1 Rebel leader on island not a serious opponent (5,3)
 2 It can be very dangerous charging money (5)
 3 Cause no discord among the Titans (7)
 4 Play not accepted by the Royal Court? (12,8)
 6 Ambassador briefed twice concerning what's in this area (9)
 7 Having assembled, we hear, remain inside for every type of treatment (7,7)
 8 It's even said to appear plausible (6-6)
 9 Exchange of letters marks the end of a new Indian city (7)
 10 Place of entertainment's next West End hit (5-4)
 11 Fruit tree producing endless fruit without one (6)
 12 Move to richer parts, and impressive sort of address? (8)
 13 It's useless to press a foreign voting system on elected board (11)
 14 Two authors with novel sent real message of optimism (4,7,7)
 15 Abandoned wreck's position near continent (2,3,5)
 23 Underground worker is hard on youngster, say (4-5)
 25 1960 case-book (4,11,5)
 27 Intolerance as school's leader is replaced by new head (10)
 29 Fascinated way in which daughter follows (9)
 31 This poet, in short, misused lutes (6,7,5)
 32 They guarantee island's position in worst possible case (10)
 35 Striking with lots of gunfire and explosions (9)
 37 Tiddly, we hear, following a port (5)
 38 Letters written before I enter US university force (5)
 40 To be introducing special term is going too far (9)
 41 Step in with cover, and set out to provide this? (14)
 44 Infected it's helpful (12)
 46 Start off geographical organization in island group (11)
 48 Jaw on male amphibian (10)
 52 After partitioning of Ireland, study peace proposal (9)
 54 Talked glibly about point that's not plain (9)
 55 A French female upset in test of ownership rights (8)
 56 Tough kid, for example, comes to unhappy end (8)
 59 Amusing fellow-doctor (7)
 60 Icy lakes I'd found oddly picturesque (7)
 61 Punished us without a break (6)
 65 Indian all-rounder given shrewd support (5)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, September 14. Entries should be sent to Jumbo Crossword, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, September 19.



Name _____
Address _____

SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2879

- ACROSS: 1 Essex Man 7 Slime 8 Edgbaston 9 IBM 10 Then 11 Scared 13 Detach 14 Puppet 19 Prompt 20 Mete 21 War 23 Egomaniac 24 Power 25 Gendarme
 DOWN: 1 Erected 2 Segment 3 Xmas 4 Attack 5 Livid 6 Terms 7 Snarl-up 12 Scooter 15 Premier 16 Treacle 17 Oppose 18 Swipe 19 Prowl 22 Band

Concise version

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday.

ACROSS

- 1 European mountaineer (8)
 2 Fathoming weight (5)
 3 Bumpy (3,4)
 4 No gain, no loss (6,3,11)
 6 Alive (livestock) (2,3,4)
 7 Penal colony exile (14)
 8 Score 100 (4,1,7)
 9 Beef, lamb, venison (3,4)
 10 Occasionally (9)
 11 Maltreat (3,3)
 12 Require implement (4,4)
 13 Ballast sacks (11)
 14 Star Trek craft (8,10)
 15 Cup-switching trick (10)
 23 Trademark (5,4)
 25 Jordan-crossing spiritual (5,3,5,7)
 27 Ripped receipt (4,6)
 29 Underestimated (9)
 31 Luxor tomb malediction (5,2,11)
 32 Be correct (3,2,5)
 35 Sneaked away (9)
 36 Belief principle (5)
 38 Thicket (5)
 40 Film test (5,4)
 41 British royal dynasty (5,2,7)
 44 Announce theme (4,3,5)
 46 Temperature measure (11)
 48 Gaol room (6,4)
 52 Insensitivity to pain (9)
 54 Challenged umpire (6,3)
 55 Investigation (8)
 56 Agreed (8)
 59 Richard III follower (7)
 60 Board aircraft (7)
 61 Main turn (3,3)
 65 Melancholy (5)

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Spare rooms: it is not hard to get lost in The Old Rectory, whose guide price is £650,000

and original cross beams, can also enjoy the vista from a number of the other rooms.

The Old Rectory stands on what is claimed to be the highest land in Cambridge, on the site of the prehistoric Fleam Dyke which was the fortified boundary of the Fens. With a guide price of £650,000, the seven-bedroom house stands in about 1½ acres with gardens that slope down to the river.

GILL ELLIOTT
 • Further enquiries: Bidwells Cambridge office (0223 841842).

Clean and fruity



Country life: this 150-year-old farmhouse costs £69,000

Large unconverted stone farmhouses, with sizeable acreages, start at £40,000. Fully renovated, with outbuildings and up to ten acres of fruit trees and farmland, these fetch from £80,000. A restored four-bedroom house with central heating, a garage and a substantial walled garden.

Montclar, is for sale at £64,000, through French Property Shop, Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex (0892 852449). It has a large, attached open-fronted barn and 4½ acres of land.

Not far from the border with the Dordogne, near the old market town of Lautun, this attractive stone farmhouse (left), set in 1½ acres of garden with vines, surrounded by rolling green countryside, is on offer at £69,000 (including agency fees). The 150-year-old stone house has been restored by its English owners and has central heating. The UK agent is Sifex, Phoenix House, 86 Fulham High Street, London SW6 (071-584 1200).

CHERYL TAYLOR

• Other UK agents with associations in the Lot et Garonne: Barbers, 427-429 North End Road, Fulham, London SW6 (071-381 0112) and Western France Properties, 70 Brewer Street, London W1 (071-734 9002).

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Tudor pile more home than stately

It's a family affair when the old hall opens its doors, Widget Finn writes

Anna and John Mosesson, of Otey Hall in Suffolk, have an advantage over other people who open their historic houses to the public between them they have seven children, and this bank holiday weekend everyone, except 18-month-old Cecilia, will be on duty.

"All the children are involved," Mrs Mosesson says, "whether they're selling tickets, showing people round, answering questions or washing up. Visitors like to see that a family actually lives here." For example, Dargan, aged 21, takes the entrance money; Beata and Iona (six and nine) help with the cream teas while Jock, ten, is in charge of exhibitions.

Swedish-born Mr Mosesson, the chairman of a group of building companies, first saw the hall in 1976, while looking for land in Suffolk on which to build a "machine for living". Instead he fell in love with 500-year-old Otey, hidden deep in the countryside.

The house is a textbook example of medieval domestic architecture, with half-timbering, pargetting, rosy brick, mullioned windows, towering Tudor chimneys and a moat lying in the long grass by the water's edge is a child's battered tricycle, a reminder that Otey Hall is more home than stately.

Originally a farmhouse built in 1420, the building was extended in 1500 and incorporated into an elaborate Tudor house around 1580. The Great Hall, with its huge mullioned windows, and screens passage, the linen-fold panelled parlour and wall paintings in the banqueting hall are reminders of Otey's illustrious past. It was home to the Gosnold family, royal courtiers and pioneers in the New World, where Martha's Vineyard is named after a Gosnold daughter. From the 17th century to 1900 the house was lived in by tenants, who preserved it from successive fashions in "modernisation".

When Mr Mosesson, who is chairman of the Historic Houses Association of East Anglia, bought Otey Hall he had no plans to open it to the public. But like many owners of historic houses he welcomed anyone who was interested in viewing the building. "The bush



Welcoming turnout: John and Anna Mosesson with six of their seven children — from left to right, Beata, six; Dargan, 21; Jock, ten; Truan, 16; Cecilia, 18 months; Iona, nine

telegraph got out of hand," Mr Mosesson says. "People were visiting the house every day, sometimes in unmanageable numbers, so we decided to open officially on bank holidays."

In 1982 the tenor Sir Peter Pears, who was a family friend, performed the opening ceremony. Since then, there have been about 10,000 visitors each year.

Mrs Mosesson, who is also Swedish, married her husband two years ago. She was undaunted at the prospect of taking on a slice of English heritage after a childhood spent at Charlton, a much grander 18th-century house in Fife. "But there is something special about Otey," she says, "perhaps because

it hasn't got Rembrandts and fine furniture. Visitors say that it feels like a Christmas house, with an atmosphere of warmth and family, and the smell of wood fires."

Four weeks of hard work are needed to prepare the ten-acre garden before an open day, and the older children help to cut the grass with an elderly mower. Opening the house itself forces the family to tidy it up, Mr Mosesson says, but little preparation is needed apart from clearing away scattered toys and putting up a few disarming notices in childish handwriting which say invitingly: "Do come in."

There's a marked absence of forbidding "no entry" signs. "We just close a few doors," Mr

Mosesson says, "and occasionally someone who is particularly curious will open one and find a pile of dirty washing and old boxes that we've chuck out of the way."

Otey Hall, having survived the batterings of 500 years, quickly shrugs off the effects of 500 visitors in an afternoon. Ten minutes after the gates are closed, Mr Mosesson says, the signs are taken down, the string which marks the car park is rolled up, and all is back to normal.

Appreciative visitors make all the hard work worthwhile, the Mosessons say. "Very occasionally," Mrs Mosesson admits, "someone will put a snide comment in the visitors' book, like 'How much do you pay in community charge?'

they then slip away having made their political statement. But many people tell us that it is the most beautiful house they have ever visited and ask if they can help with the washing up."

Otey Hall, having survived the batterings of 500 years, quickly shrugs off the effects of 500 visitors in an afternoon. Ten minutes after the gates are closed, Mr Mosesson says, the signs are taken down, the string which marks the car park is rolled up, and all is back to normal.

Appreciative visitors make all the hard work worthwhile, the Mosessons say. "Very occasionally," Mrs Mosesson admits, "someone will put a snide comment in the visitors' book, like 'How much do you pay in community charge?'

trained musicians, organise 20th-century concerts in the Great Hall.

Mr Mosesson is exploring ways of providing income for the upkeep of the building. One of the barns has been equipped as a 100-seater conference room, and with the Aldeburgh Festival nearby, the house provides an unusual venue for corporate entertaining and company training.

But Otey Hall will always be first and foremost a home open to people who appreciate its timeless beauty and tranquil surroundings.

• Otey Hall, near Ipswich, Suffolk, is open tomorrow and Monday, 2-6pm. £3.50, child £2.50, including parking. Disabled parking and access to ground floor rooms available.

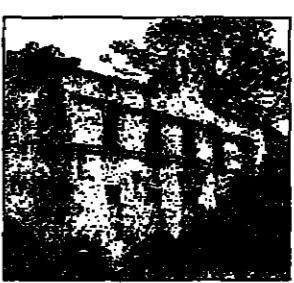
Heap of the week:

Bankton House

Bonnie Charlie's revenge

ALL being well, Bankton House, near Edinburgh, will open again in time for the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Prestonpans. It was here, in 1745, that Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highlanders took revenge on Colonel James Gardiner, who had played a key role in his father's defeat at the Battle of Preston.

The house, built by Gardiner in the 1720s, had delightfully ornate Dutch gables on all four fronts, but a fire in



New life: Bankton House

1870 destroyed the panelling inside, and a further fire in 1966 left the house a pathetic shell. The end gables were taken down for safety.

When the land was acquired for open-cast coal-mining, the Lothian Building Preservation Trust persuaded British Coal to replant the orchard to the south and fill out a small stretch of park to the north with young trees.

Supported by grant offers from Historic Scotland and East Lothian district council, the trust will create four duplex apartments in the main house. Further apartments will be created in the other buildings on the estate.

Frank Tindall, the trust's director, says: "Bankton will be ideal for couples who want to be in the country, with lots of space for children to play."

MARCUS BINNEY

• Further information from Frank Tindall on 0875 320341.

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SUNDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University.** *6.45 The Regulation of Flowering* (5153363) 7.10 Maths: Modelling Cranes (5030276) 7.35 Energy Resources: Alternatives (3110943) 8.00 Head Start: Children of the Dream (5668905) 8.25 *The Golden Rule* (6955855) 8.50 *Playdays*. Fun for children (r) (2808905) 9.10 *Newspaper week* (2230059) 9.15 *Summer Sunday* from the Norfolk Broads village of Ranworth (s) (5736301) 10.00 *Sign Extra*. A special programme marking a decade of the BBC Computer Project (623828)
- 10.30** *Les Misérables* (1978). Polished television movie of Victor Hugo's novel following the misfortunes of a man imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread. Starring Anthony Perkins and Richard Jordan. Directed by Glenn Jordan (68547)
- 12.30** *Countryfile* with John Craven. Rupert Sagar examines racial prejudice in the countryside (1470672) 12.30 *Weather*
- 1.00** *News* (72240203) followed by *The High Chaparral*. Classic western series starring Lee Erickson (r) (690924)
- 2.00** *EastEnders*. Omnibus edition (r). (Ceefax) (s) (63011)
- 3.00** *Bonanza*. Friday's episode (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5634)
- 3.30** *Film*: *A Trip to Bountiful* (1985). Powerful drama about an aging widow who dreams of visiting her home town one last time. Starring Geraldine Page, who won an Oscar. Directed by Peter Masterson (19851)
- 5.15** *That's Life!* Compilation. Esther Rantzen introduces highlights from the last series. (Ceefax) (s) (807295)
- 5.45 Europe By Design.** Tom Vermon discovers how five European countries express their ambitions through big building plans. (Ceefax) (90566)
- 6.15** *The Survival Guide to Food*. Cheryl Baker presents a new six-part series on food poisoning and how to avoid it. (Ceefax) (90382)
- 6.25** *News with Chris Lowe*. Weather (93958)
- 6.40** *Sounds of Praise*. Pam Rhodes joins 2,500 young Baptists as they congregate for a day out at Alton Towers. (Ceefax) (s) (251721)
- 7.15** *The Two Ronnies*. More vintage comedy sketches from Corbett and Barker. With guest Elaine Paige (r). (Ceefax) (417450)



A family tear-jerker: Ted Danson and Jack Lemmon (8.05pm)

- 8.05 Film: Dad** (1989) ● CHOICE: Handkerchiefs at the ready for a sentimental swallow through the troubles of a nice Los Angeles family. It is bad enough when mum (Olympia Dukakis) is taken to hospital after a heart attack. Then dad (Jack Lemmon), already on the edge of senility and barely able to cope alone, is diagnosed as having cancer. Never mind, son John (Ted Danson) has flown in from his high-powered job on Wall Street to ease the way for his ailing folks and in the process to mend fences with his estranged son. This unashamed affirmation of family life, not a fashionably theme in the cinema or anywhere else these days, was directed by Gary David Goldberg. It is saved from unbearable sweetness by the sympathetic playing of Lemmon, who is almost unrecognisable with his bald head, ample moustache and old man's wrinkles. (Ceefax) (s) (38535301)
- 10.00 News with Martyn Lewis**. (Ceefax). Weather (877653)
- 10.15 Everyman: How to Get to Heaven in Montana** ● CHOICE: Named after one of the 16th-century's lesser-known Protestant reformers, the Hutterites entered the United States from Germany 100 years ago and live in isolated farms along the American-Canadian border. They do not watch television and normally fight shy of the cameras. The Hutterites of Flat Willow, Montana, made an exception for *Everyman* and may have regretted it. Jane Treays' film reveals how two-thirds of the community has rejected the austere Hutterite way of life and converted to born again Christianity. Each Sunday now sees rival church services and the defections have divided families, turning brother against sister, son against father, even husband against wife. The born again women revel in their new freedom. At last they can wear brightly coloured dresses. (Ceefax) (818108)
- 11.05 Doogie Howser MD**. Imitating American comedy about a teenage medical genius Doogie two-times his girlfriend (s) (362214)
- 11.30 Floggin' a Dead Horse**. Singer-songwriter Peter Skellern takes a lighthearted view of village life (r) (68566). 12.00 *Weather*

BBC2

- 6.35 Open University:** *Motion in a Circle* (5160553) 7.00 *Modern Art: Jackson Pollock* (5074563) 7.25 *Mining for Science* (5059301) 7.50 *The Optical Lens* (1834634) 8.15 *Can and Coronation* (5697214) 8.40 *Industrial Strike* (4930011) 9.05 *Patterns in Green* (7699721) 9.30 *Arts: King Cotton's Palace* (5729214) 9.55 *Frontiers of Geology* (6299924) 10.20 *Whipped into Action* (6055905) 10.45 *Women's Studies: Taking the Credit* (6879818) 11.15 *Inns - Implications for a Nation* (1720498) 11.35 *A Global Culture* (5073633)
- 12.00 Eastern Spirit, Western World.** A profile of the Chinese-born artist Diana Kao (23556). Northern Ireland: *Greenfingers*
- 12.30** *TV May Grand Prix* from Spa (2452242) 12.45 *From the Belfry*. The line-up includes: 12.45 *Motor racing*. Live coverage of the Belgian Grand Prix from Spa. 2.45 *Stunt jumping*. The Hickstead Derby: 4.30 *Golf*. Action from the third round of the Murphy's English Open from the Belfry (3859092)
- 6.00 Edinburgh Nights.** An historical and hysterical look at the best of the festival fringe comedy (127)
- 6.30 One Man and His Dog.** Phil Drabble introduces the third heat of this year's sheepdog trials from Ennerdale Water in the Lake District (s) (691837)
- 7.15 The Living Planet: The Northern Forests.** Continuing his famous wildlife series, David Attenborough explores the world's largest forest, which stretches from the Arctic to the southern United States (r). (Ceefax) (439672)
- 8.10 A Woman of Importance.** Patricia Routledge stars in Alan Bennett's award-winning play *Woman*. The doyenne of the works comes to a close when she is admitted to hospital (r) (075547)
- 9.00 Grand Prix Highlights.** Murray Walker introduces highlights of the Belgian Grand Prix from Spa (3363)
- 9.50 Autumn on 2.** A preview of the new season of programmes on BBC2 (930301)



Hollywood dreams: with Donald Sutherland (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Moviedrome.** Alex Cox introduces *The Day of the Locust* (1974) at 12.20am *The Big Knife* (1955, b/w) ● CHOICE: Tonight's *Moviedrome* theme is Hollywood on Hollywood, with two scathing portraits of the American movie capital. Made by the British director John Schlesinger, *The Day of the Locust* is much the longer and also the more diffuse. It is a bold attempt, fine in parts but an uneasy whole, to translate Nathanael West's laconic novel and follows the bewildered progress of an art director (William Atherton) through the studio system of the 1930s. There is good work from Karen Black and Donald Sutherland. Robert Aldrich's *The Big Knife*, a high octane treatment of a play by a Hollywood victim Clifford Odets, was made just as the studio system was starting to crumble. Jack Palance plays a star on the slide but Rod Steiger steals the film as a studio head drawn from two real monsters, Louis B. Mayer and Harry Cohn (56780130). Ends at 2.10

- 11.40 Sundown: The Vampire in Retreat** (1989). Cowboys meet bloodsuckers in this gory exploitation movie. 1.25am *A Force of Ten* (1979). Undercover agents are being killed (6229257)
- 2.25 Howling V2: The Freaks** (1970). A werewolf joins a band of circus freaks and a psychic team to rescue his mate from a psychopath who sells her to possessors (559189)
- 4.15 Sundown: The Vampire in Retreat** (1989). Cowboys meet bloodsuckers in this gory exploitation movie. 1.25am *A Force of Ten* (1979). Undercover agents are being killed (6229257)
- 5.20** *Howling V2: The Freaks (1970). A werewolf joins a band of circus freaks and a psychic team to rescue his mate from a psychopath who sells her to possessors (559189)*
- 6.15** *Dawn - The Vampire in Retreat (1989). A girl finds life difficult after her father dies (183822)*
- 11.30 Floggin' a Dead Horse.** Singer-songwriter Peter Skellern takes a lighthearted view of village life (r) (68566). 12.00 *Weather*

SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites 6.00am *Hour of Power* (76818) 7.00 *Business Weekly* (52450) 8.00 *News at Ten* (51109) 8.30 *Weather* (877653) 9.00 *TV Times* (51109) 9.30 *World Cup* (70711) 4.30 *Those Were The Days* (21819) 5.00 *Live at Five* (69183)
- 6.30 *Reporting* (24740) 7.30 *F7 Business Weekly* (51257) 8.00 *News at Ten* (51109) 8.30 *World Cup* (70711) 2.10 *F7 Business Weekly* (51257) 2.30 *Target* (28580) 3.30 *Travel Destinations* (30323) 4.30 *Target* (72232) 5.30 *Beyond 2000*
- 5.00** *SKY MOVIES+* ● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites 6.00 *News* (68566) 6.30 *Weather*
- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites 6.00 *News* (68566) 6.30 *Weather* (877653) 9.00 *Home Sweet Homeless* (1989). A family live out of the back of a car (70295) 9.00 *Jurat*: A girl finds life difficult after her father dies (183822)
- 10.00 *Backfield in Motion* (1991): A single

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- 10.00 *Backfield in Motion* (1991): A single

- mother forms a football team (16653) 12.00 *The Death of the Incredible Hulk* (1990). A scientist is kidnapped (57865) 1.15 *Death*

BBC1

- 6.35 Open University: Interrogating the Past (5102639) 7.00 Shapes of Rows (5072252)
 7.25 News and Weather (8532146) 7.30 Hallo Spencer. Puppet fun (r) (1865504) 7.50 Babar. Antics of a regal elephant (r) (1869320) 8.15 The New Lassie. Canine adventures (r) (8986320) 8.35 The Jetsons. Fun with the space-age family (4975184)
 9.00 Parallel 9. Among the guests are the singers Belinda Carlisle and Ce Ce Peniston and stars from the World Wrestling Federation. Plus news of the Notting Hill carnival (s) (19268252)
 10.55 Film: Peter Lundy and the Medicine Hat Stallion (1977). A family adventure set in the mid-19th century about a teenager who becomes a rider for the Pony Express. Starring Left Garrett. Directed by Michael O'Hernly (9687998) 12.27 Weather
 12.30 Grandstand. Introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is: 12.35 Football Focus: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker review the week's soccer action; 1.05 News; 1.10 Motor cycling from Cadwell Park; 1.55 Racing from Goodwood; 2.08 March Stakes; 2.30 Sport on 5 Stakes Handicap; 3.10 Beeferter Girl Celebration Mile. 2.05, 2.35 Show jumping; Speed Derby from Hickstead; 3.15, 4.00 Golf; action from the second round of the Murphy's English Open at the Belfry; 5.50 Football half-times; 4.40 Final Score (71826287)
 5.10 News and weather (5830146) 5.20 Regional news and weather (5781146)
 5.25 Tom and Jerry Triple Bill. Cat and mouse games (r) (9976349)
 5.50 Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Highlights of the annual event from the floodlit esplanade Edinburgh Castle. This year the Tattoo celebrates the 350th anniversary of the Scots Guards. The Melting Band from Turkey makes its first appearance in Edinburgh and among the 120-strong Massed Pipes and Drums is the band of Adelaide University. Australia. Tom Fleming provides the commentary (s) (267610)
 6.45 Jim'll Fix It. Sir Jimmy Savile introduces a compilation of viewers' favourite clips from 1991. (Ceefax) (553829)
 7.30 Dad's Army: Big Guns. Jimmy Perry and David Croft's genial comedy featuring the bumbling antics of the home guard. Starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier (r). (Ceefax) (788)



Going to Barbados: Joan Hickson as Miss Marple (8.00pm)

8.00 Miss Marple: A Caribbean Mystery. The last of three repeated Agatha Christie stories. Joan Hickson plays the indomitable amateur detective who finds murder and intrigue while on holiday in Barbados. Donald Peasey enjoys himself as an eccentric millionaire (r). (Ceefax) (s) (69961436)
 9.50 News and sport with Marilyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Weather (221788)
 10.10 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of two of this afternoon's fixtures in the Premier League. With commentary by John Motson, Barry Davies and Tony Gubba, reports from David Davies and Clive Tydesley and reaction from Alan Hansen (s) (849349)
 11.10 Film: The Cassandra Crossing (1976). Clodhopping disaster epic with Richard Harris, Sophia Loren and Burt Lancaster in which a terrorist carrying a plague virus boards the Geneva to Stockholm express. Ava Gardner, Ingrid Thulin and Martin Sheen are also in the cast but the real star is the train. Directed by George Cosmatos (3558010) 1.15 Sam Weather (5215199)

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SKY ONE

- Dayline (91310) 11.30 Newsline Weekend (97780) 12.30pm Those Were The Days (97780) 1.30 Holiday Destinations (58417) 2.30 The Last Days of the Romanovs (97921) 3.30 The Devil's Front (31287) 4.30 Tail-Wish David Frost (41840) 5.00 Love at Five (80455) 6.30 Newsline Weekend (29078) 7.30 Fashion TV (37233) 8.30 Travel Destinations (91639) 9.30 The Last Days of the Romanovs (97921) 11.30 Tail-Wish David Frost (25591) 12.30pm Our World (52450) 1.30 Newsline Weekend (56585) 2.30 Travel Destinations (23618) 3.30 Target (28363) 4.30 Those Were The Days (66214) 5.30am Target (56451) 6.30 Newsline Weekend (97780) 7.30 Fashion TV (37233) 8.30 Travel Destinations (91639) 9.30 The Last Days of the Romanovs (97921) 11.30 Tail-Wish David Frost (25591) 12.30pm Our World (52450) 1.30 Newsline Weekend (56585) 2.30 Travel Destinations (23618) 3.30 Target (28363) 4.30 Those Were The Days (66214) 5.30am Target (56451) 6.30 Newsline Weekend (97780) 7.30 Fashion TV (37233) 8.30 Travel Destinations (91639) 9.30 The Last Days of the Romanovs (97921) 11.30 Tail-Wish David Frost (25591) 12.30pm Our World (52450) 1.30 Newsline Weekend (56585) 2.30 Travel Destinations (23618) 3.30 Target (28363) 4.30 Those Were The Days (66214) 5.30am Target (56451)

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites 6.00pm Shampoo (84320) 7.00 Flight from Ashing (1954). Pilots flying from a secret base in the Pacific (229861) 8.00 Uncle (1987). An old man and boy come to terms with death (83233) 12.00 Never Say Goodbye (1987). A girl fights to save grandmother (86320) 1.00pm Tarde (1990). A friendship is destroyed by drugs (79282) 2.00 The Godfather (1972). Godfather (1990). More adventures as an African rescue team from kidnappers (39436) 4.00 Eyes of a Witness (1991). A father finds himself in trouble in Africa (5892026) 5.45 The Great Escape (1963). Field & Mates (5202455) 6.30 The Devil's Disciple (1947) 7.45 Entertainment Tonight (985542) 8.00 Lethal Error (1991). A mother must save her son from the gas chamber (21477) 9.00 The Hunt for Red October (1990). Hollywood pros are warning to drug dealers in South America (17496) 11.30 Emmanuel (1975). Sylvie Kristel in Bangkok (81423) 1.30am The Devil's Disciple (1947) 2.00 The Devil's Disciple (1990). The moral arts lady saves a town (4595827) 2.25 Night of the Living Dead (1968). Zombies siege a farmhouse (5308565) 4.05 House Party (1990). Two boys come to terms with a parent's house (56214) 6.30am The Devil's Disciple (1947) 7.00 Motor racing (86320) 8.00 Motor Racing (45252) 9.00 World German Rally (38851) 10.00 Helicopter pros are warning to drug dealers in South America (17496) 11.30am The Devil's Disciple (1947) 1.30am The Devil's Disciple (1990). The moral arts lady saves a town (4595827) 2.00 The Devil's Disciple (1947) 2.25 Night of the Living Dead (1968). Zombies siege a farmhouse (5308565) 4.05 House Party (1990). Two boys come to terms with a parent's house (56214) 6.30am The Devil's Disciple (1947) 7.00 Motor racing (86320) 8.00 Motor Racing (45252) 9.00 World German Rally (38851) 10.00 Helicopter pros are warning to drug dealers in South America (17496) 11.30am The Devil's Disciple (1947) 1.30am The Devil's Disciple (1990). 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BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

SPORT
26-32

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

INVESTMENT

Profile

When he was four, James Tuckey and his family lived under a scrap of canvas tied to a Land Rover on a Rhodesian tobacco plantation. Now 46, he is chief executive of MEPC, Britain's second-biggest property developer, in the middle of a property slump. His early life has fined him well for the current difficulties, colleagues say..... Page 19



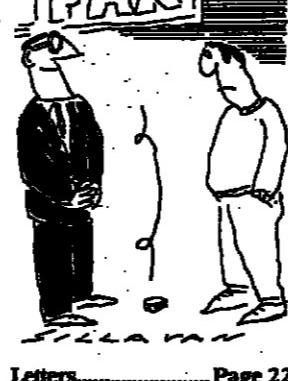
Clean break

Divorcing couples should split the total value of their joint pension rights and make a clean break, according to proposals made this week by the National Association of Pension Funds..... Page 23

Rising sun

The Japanese stock market has risen 25 per cent in nine days as details have spilt out of the government's rescue for the financial system. Yesterday the cabinet approved the rescue..... Page 18

FAX



Own home

Carol Drury is looking forward to moving out of her cramped caravan and into the four-bedroomed home that she and her husband Simon have built from scratch. The Drurys are two of a growing number of people prepared to suffer the initial discomforts involved in building their own homes because of the subsequent benefits they will enjoy. Fellow self-builders, the Pounds calculate that their £130,000 house would cost them about £200,000 to buy..... Page 21



Complaining

Pension fund administrators are blamed for poor communication with fund members for a number of the complaints received by the pensions ombudsman in his first year in office..... Page 23

Foundations

The National Self Build Homes Show is hoping to attract 40,000 visitors next month against the 34,486 that attended last year. A self-build trade association warns against cowboys..... Page 21



Bond boost

The conventional wisdom of the 1980s that the stock market was the best place to invest has been turned on its head in the 1990s. Returns from bonds are looking more attractive..... Page 22

Lloyd's council wins victory in names' poll

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London yesterday celebrated a resounding victory in a poll of names on a motion of confidence in the insurance market's ruling council.

There was an 80 per cent majority for the key motion, expressing confidence in the current council subject to continuation of efforts to reform the market and raise funds to relieve the hardship of distressed names.

The vote was hailed as a breakthrough in the bitter two-year struggle with several thousand loss-making names, most of whom are threatening legal action. The ballot followed an extraordinary meeting of names last month that

debated five motions, four of which were critical of the market and its management. Those four were opposed by the council, and all were defeated.

David Coleridge, the outgoing chairman of Lloyd's, announced the results of the poll yesterday afternoon on the floor of the underwriting room. His statement was greeted with applause from underwriters and brokers. Before he delivered it, the Lutine bell at the centre of the room was rung twice.

Mr Coleridge told *The Times* afterwards: "We have often had to turn the other cheek while the vociferous minority has made all the noise. But we are all 'good motherhood requests'."

The highest vote in favour of any of the four dissident motions was for one calling on current and future council members to disclose, publicly and fully, all their interests in businesses related to Lloyd's. The motion was rejected by 57 per cent to 43 per cent. Lloyd's has already decided that a register of council members' interests will be introduced next year. Another motion, calling for the reversal of a £500 million levy imposed on the membership, was rejected by 64 per cent of those voting.

Richard Astor, legal adviser to the EGM Initiative, said he was "pretty encouraged by the results" and warned Lloyd's that a second EGM and new motions for ballot could follow if the council refused to co-operate with groups representing dissident names. "Our first move will be to hold out the hand of constructive discussion to Lloyd's and hope they offer their own back."

Motions at a second EGM would demand an independent chairman appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England; outlawing of the use by names of bank guarantees on principal residences as Lloyd's deposits; and repeal of the section of the Lloyd's Act that protects Lloyd's and its officers from liability for damages. Initiatives to requisition a second EGM are likely to be strongly resisted within Lloyd's because of the time and cost involved.

Richard Astor said that as about 6,000 of the votes were from working names and their families and could therefore be discounted, the EGM Initiative had "tied two and won two" of its motions.

In June, when Lloyd's revealed plans for a £500 million levy on names, it said the cash would provide "a substantial margin of solvency".

Despite the gloomy outlook for the next two years, Chaset said that conditions are improving. Its figures indicate that cash calls on names have totalled £273 million for the 1990 and 1991 years of account so far, compared with £371 million, this time last year, for 1989.

Level of market costs criticised

By PATRICIA TEHRAN

LLOYD'S is spending too much on reinsurance, brokerage and administration to compete successfully in the world insurance market, according to Chaset, an independent consultancy.

In 1990, syndicates paid out £1.37 billion in fees to brokers and incurred expenses of £683 million – in all, 39 per cent of the Lloyd's market's £5.49 billion net premiums for the year. In 1991, the percentage fell to 37 per cent of £6.63 billion.

John Rew, a director of Chaset, said that was still too high, compared with the 28 per cent expense ratio of the

top 20 American reinsurance companies.

Charles Sturge, Chaset's other director, said expenses should be cut by at least 10 per cent, with most savings coming from reduced fees to brokers. He criticised the 10 per cent brokerage charged for syndicate reinsurance, saying: "That is an area where brokers could work for substantially more."

Mr Sturge said: "If Lloyd's cannot get its expenses down, it will make a profit in good years but will not offset losses in bad ones." He added: "Lloyd's is scared stiff of upsetting the brokers, but how else do you get the costs down?"

Chaset believes Lloyd's will find it difficult to pass the trade department's solvency tests this month. Mr Rew said Lloyd's had to find £1 billion from underwriting names to pass the tests. Chaset estimates that Lloyd's has outstanding liabilities of £5.5 billion, compared with \$4.5 billion.

Part of the shortfall, Mr Rew said, had been caused by a Lloyd's decision to increase names' "fall-safe" deposit from 7.5 per cent to 15 per cent, to bring it into line with insurance companies. These must maintain a 16 per cent ratio of funds held to premiums.

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Despite the gloomy outlook for the next two years, Chaset said that conditions are improving. Its figures indicate that cash calls on names have totalled £273 million for the 1990 and 1991 years of account so far, compared with £371 million, this time last year, for 1989.

CURRENT RATES

US dollar 1.9845 (+0.0059)

German mark 2.7874 (-0.0056)

Exchange index 92.0 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCKS

FT 30 share 1680.6 (-8.0)

FT SE 100 2312.6 (+4.1)

New York Dow Jones 3262.21 (+7.57)*

Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17970.79 (+415.79)

London Stock Exchange 102.3000

3-month interbank 10% - 10.2%

3-month eligible bills 10% - 9.5%

UK Premium Bonds 3.7%*

3-month Treasury Bills 3.17-3.15%*

30-year bonds 9.75-9.77%*

London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing AM 830-10 PM 930-30

Close 830-30 930-30

\$171.40-171.50

New York Comex \$ 338.85-338.85*

London Gold market close

London Gold 138.8 July (1987-100)

* Denotes midday trading price

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%

3-month interbank: 10%-10.2%

3-month eligible bills: 10%-9.5%

UK Premium Bonds: 3.7%*

3-month Treasury Bills: 3.17-3.15%*

30-year bonds: 9.75-9.77%*

London Foreign market close

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £1.9820*

DM: 2.7867

Swf: 2.4914

Fr: 16.5040

Yen: 244.65

Sw: 1.1200

Ec: 0.726561

Ecu: 0.745591

London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing AM 830-10 PM 930-30

Close 830-30 930-30

\$171.40-171.50

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London Gold market close

London Gold 138.8 July (1987-100)

* Denotes midday trading price

INDIA

Indians' legal arrows strike Richmond oil deal

By MARTIN BARROW

RICHMOND OIL and Gas has smoked the pipes of peace with the Ute Indians of Colorado. But not before a dispute with them over property rights nearly scuppered a crucial deal, depriving the company of urgently needed funds and forcing creditors to foreclose on assets that usually generate 90 per cent of revenue.

The company thought it was home and dry with a \$20 million deal to sell its interests in the San Juan coalbed methane properties. But appearances proved deceptive and by the financial year-end only \$12.6 million had been received, insuffi-

cient to resolve Richmond's funding difficulties.

A lawsuit filed by the Indians against 120 oil and gas operators in Colorado, including Richmond, made it impossible to close the deal. Under

an agreement from the 1930s the Indians were given the rights to coal on their land. The tribe said that, because the methane gas came from within the coal, it was theirs. Richmond said the claim was

contentious because it was made after several years of coalbed methane production, but was obliged to negotiate an undisclosed settlement.

The \$7.4 million shortfall aggravated a financial crisis caused by lower gas production and prices, leaving Richmond unable to meet interest and principal payments due on March 31. Efforts to refinance debts secured on the Richmond Ranch, a property in Texas, failed and the shares, offered at 105p, are worth 5p.

But the company came back to the market barely 15 months after flotation with a \$31 million rights issue that flopped. The Series Fraud Office is investigating share dealings around the time of the rights issue.



ing an exceptional write-off of £37.13 million against the Richmond Ranch property. The auditors' report will be qualified.

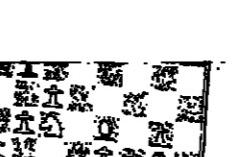
Richmond, an American company that came to the stock market in 1989 with a poorly received public sale, must rank as one of the least successful flotation seen in London. It has not yet made a profit and the shares, offered at 105p, are worth 5p.

Richmond gave details of the Colorado dispute yesterday after announcing net losses of £44 million for the year to end-March, includ-

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</div

BUSINESS PROFILE: James Tuckey

Man of property with an affinity for the land

The head of MEPC blends blue-chip credentials with the objectivity of an outsider, as Carol Leonard discovered

James Tuckey, chief executive of MEPC, the second-biggest property company in Britain, is 46 years old, has been in his present job for four years and has the world at his feet.

In nine years' time, when he reaches the age of 55, he will, he predicts, have left the employ of MEPC — salary at present circa £200,000 — and as he ponders what he might do next he is perhaps unaware that this is a question also being posed by other people in the property world. Will he collect a knighthood, they muse, enter parliament or take another corporate entity?

Next year, during one of the most difficult periods in its history, Tuckey will become president of the general council of the British Property Federation, an influential pressure group that represents the views of both commercial and institutional property owners. If it can be used as any sort of yardstick, this means

'I have tried to improve the quality of our buildings. I'm very proud of a number of them'

he has risen, in the eyes of his peers, to more or less the top of his chosen profession. He is also a director of Abbey National, an investment adviser to the BP pension fund and is a governor of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where he once studied to become a chartered surveyor.

Add to that the fact that he is an adviser, via the Duchy of Cornwall, to the Prince of Wales on matters of architecture and design, and the blue-chip mixture is complete. "I am quite sympathetic to his views," says Tuckey, choosing his words with care.

Tuckey prides himself on taking particular interest in the aesthetic qualities of MEPC's developments. He harbours, he says, creative ideals. "I know the bottom line is very important but I have seriously tried to improve the quality of the buildings we



High rise: James Tuckey is about to reach the top of his profession as president of the British Property Federation

make. I'm very proud of a number of them."

He cites Alban Gate, an office development in the City, and shopping centres in Tumbridge Wells and Leamington Spa, as examples.

He refrains from saying, however, that those creative ideals will not be satisfied until MEPC can lay claim to a development of greater, perhaps national, significance. Harriet, his wife of 18 years, reveals that at one stage he had hoped MEPC would win the controversial contract to redevelop the square adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral. "The real pleasure he gets from his job is not from power, status or prestige," she says. "If he could cause beautiful buildings to be built, that would give him far greater pleasure. Not some enormous edifice with its

name on it, just something very beautiful."

Tuckey might be about to become the president of his trade body.

He might be chief executive of a

£750 million firm, and he might admit that he would dearly like that firm, under his direction, to claim the number one slot from Land Securities in the league table of property giants, but he does not come across as a man driven by a single-minded desire to see his own name in lights. He is unreservedly modest. At cocktail parties, if asked what his job is, he will either describe himself as a chartered surveyor or say that he works for a property firm.

His youthful appearance and relaxed, personable manner belie his competitive spirit and will to win. He might pop down to the pub if a long-serving member of staff is leaving, but seldom stays longer than an hour. In fact, he admits he is naturally inclined to shun after-work drinking sessions, so that he can run the four miles home instead carrying papers he needs to

work on that night in a rucksack on his back.

Tuckey gives the impression that, as a student, he always did the minimum amount of work necessary to scrape through, but impressions can be — and are — misleading. His wife corrects that supposition, saying: "He does the minimum necessary to get by comfortably." One of his contemporaries at Cirencester once observed: "James always does the minimum of work necessary to come first."

Tuckey is undeniably bright but is, in some ways, under-educated. Conscious of what he perceives as a weak link, he habitually puts himself down. "My wife is much cleverer than me — it is a cross I have to bear," he quips at one point in the interview. He fails to mention that his reason for claiming this is because Harry graduated from Essex University with a first class degree in literature.

"I have never had my intelligence tested, my academic ability stretched," he says. "If I had, my time, over again, I would definitely go to university. Yes, I do feel under-educated, very much so, and when I eventually pack it all in, one of my options is to go and get myself educated. I would study architecture or history."

Tuckey insists he has no interest in a political career, or

another major business challenge. "I don't want to become another King or Hanson," he says. Instead he identifies his other option as being to return to the land, to bring his life full circle.

An early affinity with farming and life outdoors was what prompted him to go to Cirencester. That affinity resulted from his parents' decision, when Tuckey was four years old, to emigrate to Rhodesia, buy 5,000 virgin acres and turn them into a tobacco plantation. Tuckey's father, employed in the Sheffield steel industry, had decided post-war Britain had little to offer and persuaded his wife and three sons to exchange a rectory in Derbyshire for a canvas awning in an unknown land.

"It was an amazing experience," Tuckey recalls. "For the first two years we camped beneath a piece of canvas tied at the side of our Land Rover. The first priority was to put up the farm buildings to allow the farm to operate. It was certainly a struggle. My father had to learn how to farm, and to farm in Africa."

After two years the canvas awning was replaced by a series of interconnecting mud huts and five years after that the mud was replaced with brick and thatch.

"We were 100 miles from

the nearest cinema and 25 miles from the nearest village. My mother tried to teach me by correspondence course but it was a constant battle and so I was sent away to school in southern Rhodesia when I was seven."

Tuckey admits that these childhood experiences have had a profound effect on him. "One developed a sense of independence quickly, an appreciation of the outdoors and a preference for an active rather than a reflective life."

Far from longing for a more conventional upbringing, Tuckey talks as if he were especially privileged. "We learned how lucky we were to have that amazing chance in life."

"My parents were adventurous, prepared to have a go and enjoy themselves. We employed a huge labour force and one realised, at a young

female environment. "I'm not a men's bar person at the golf club, I prefer mixed company," he says.

Tuckey is gregarious, good-humoured and attentive. He is also exceptionally good at dealing with people, be it socially or corporately. His wife says: "He is very good at saying nasty, unpleasant things in a nice way. He is good at organising people, bringing out the best in them and making things happen. Wherever we go people want him to get involved and help run things."

Tuckey admits that organisational drive can cause him to be bossy: "My wife would say I was definitely bossy," he says — and colleagues say that if they had to identify one fault it would be that he finds it extremely difficult to admit his mistakes.

MEPC, however, has made mistakes in the property crash of the 1990s along with most other such firms, but it is faring better than most. In the six months to March, pre-tax profits fell to £58.6 million, from £67.4 million the previous year.

In performance for the rest

of the year is expected to remain flat because MEPC — as Tuckey puts it — put its cranes away two and a half years ago.

Earlier ambitions to return to his parents' farm, post-Cirencester, were abandoned as political tension in Rhodesia heightened and the young Tuckey instead got a job as a surveyor with Savills in Dorset, before joining MEPC in 1971.

His home now is as conventional as the one he once had in Derbyshire — a Victorian town house in Holland Park, London. And he too has three children, Venetia, 14, Lizzy, 12, and Rose, 11. He is comfortable with the transformation from an all-male to all-female environment. "I'm not a men's bar person at the golf club, I prefer mixed company," he says.

Tuckey, in a rare moment of introspection, agrees. "It's the old immigrant thing, isn't it?" he says. "You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Because I had a South African accent people were not able to put you into a pigeon hole. When people asked what school you went to, if you said Eton or Leeds Grammar, it would have meant something, but when I said Plumtree, no one knew what that meant. You were completely classless and that has made an enormous difference."

'It has been very humbling for everybody in the business to admit that collectively we got it wrong'

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STOCK MARKET

American investors raise stake in BP

AMERICAN investors are continuing to snap up shares in BP, one of Britain's best-known companies, despite the decision earlier this month to cut the dividend. They are now believed to own almost 15 per cent of the company, taking advantage of the fall in the share price to add to their holdings. They are estimated to have bought 100 million shares in the past couple of weeks.

Brokers in London reported heavy turnover in BP shares this week, usually towards the close of the trading here and when dealings on Wall Street are beginning. Several lead-

ing American securities houses have been buying shares this week, including Lehman Brothers and Salomon Brothers. BP fired another 1p to 193½p yesterday as 7.3 million shares changed hands. County NatWest, the broker, says American investors regard BP's shares as cheap compared with some American companies. Despite BP's problems, the Americans see it as good value for money. British fund managers have been sellers of BP shares for most of this year and have been happy to sell them lower. The rest of the equity market

spent a lacklustre day, with few investors willing to open fresh positions before the bank holiday weekend. After the volatility earlier this week, the FT-SE 100 index finished the day just one point up at 2,312.6, a fall on the week of 53.1 points. Turnover was a meagre 339 million shares.

The depressed building sector came in for another

pounding following a gloomy set of statistics from the Builders' Merchants Federation, showing the industry still in recession with no sign of a pick-up in housebuilding.

One of the hardest hit was Meyer International, down 31p to 204p. Earlier this week, County NatWest warned its clients that Meyer might have to cut its dividend. Other brokers are now taking a closer look at their profit forecasts. There were also losses for Hewpworth, 16p to 264p; Heywood Williams, 20p to 139p; Cala, 8p to 54p; MJ Gleeson, 7p to 613p; John Laing, 4p to 128p, and

Persimmon, 6p to 173p. Scottish & Newcastle fell a further 7p to 383p, still reflecting this week's gloomy statement to the annual meeting. Chairman Sir Alick Rankin gave a warning that conditions had deteriorated. It was a message echoed by rival Greene King, down 10p at 412p, and came hard on the heels of a profits warning from Grand Metropolitan, 1p lighter at 388p.

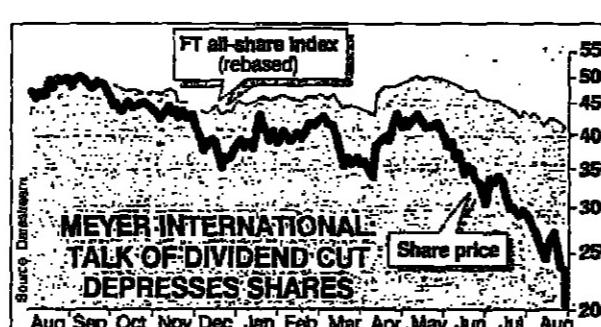
Continuous Stationery, the printing and copying group, rose 4p to 38p after receiving news of a bid approach worth 40p a share from rival Printaprint, valuing the group at £6.8 million.

Henry Ansheier was steady at 26p after reporting that it was at an advanced stage of bid talks with another suitor. Earlier discussions with Singer & Friedlander, unchanged at 34p, were terminated.

Carlton Communications shrugged off some of this week's dollar-related nervousness to finish 12p better at 550p.

Vodafone also recovered from an early fall to finish 1p firmer at 302p.

MICHAEL CLARK



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WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

Downfall of endowment policies

COMMENT
SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

There used to be two stock answers to the question: "Why should I take out an endowment mortgage?" One was that the policy would pay off the mortgage in 25 years' time. The other was that the policy would also pay out a nice tax-free lump sum.

Now neither of these answers can be sustained. Guardian Royal Exchange predicted this week that some insurers' current with-profits policies might not pay the bonuses needed to cover even the mortgage repayment. GRE was brave to articulate this fear because its investment performance has not been spectacular and it cut bonuses this year, putting it at the bottom of the payout league tables. It has said publicly what others have said privately — that present levels of bonus rates are unsustainable.

Throughout the 1980s, bonus payouts soared as companies competed to attract business. They could afford double digit bonus payouts because the value of the equities, particularly property stocks, in which policyholders' contributions

were invested rose sharply. Also, 25-year endowment mortgages were selling fast to first-time buyers desperate to get on to the housing ladder. Borrowers committed themselves more heavily and larger loans meant larger endowments.

Now an estimated 80 per cent of home owners have endowment mortgages. All are paying premiums based on assumptions that large bonuses will be added to the policy every year, more than covering the total mortgage debt. Life offices and their salesmen rarely make it clear that there is no cash guarantee that the endowment will pay off the loan and that if it does not, any shortfall will have to be paid by the borrower.

Many who took out endowments in the past three years should never have been sold them. Single people and couples with no dependants were put under pressure to buy them

by salesmen, including building societies and estate agents, keen to get the commission. Long-term endowments are an unsatisfactory way to save and an overpriced way of insuring the life of a borrower.

Growth in the first years of the policy is minimal because there are high set-up charges, reflecting high commission. At the same time, savers are locked in for 25 years, knowing that they will have to keep up the policy for at least five years before they even get their money back if they want to cash in. It is an expensive way to ensure the mort-

gage will be paid off if the borrower dies because it is priced like a savings plan. A simple term assurance policy costing a few pounds a month can perform this function admirably and does so with repayment loans.

Insurers say that endowments are still a proven way to save. This appears to be so, looking at their records of past payouts. But years of high inflation and booming stock markets have pushed up the figures and they are likely to look less impressive if low inflation and low returns from equities continue into the next century. The payout tables

also do not show how few policyholders stayed the 25-year course.

Most companies admit that less than half the endowments sold reach maturity.

So borrowers are stuck with a policy they may not have wanted in the first place, which may not even deliver what it was meant to. Even if the mortgage is covered, it is less likely they will be left with any significant tax-free lump sum. They have the right to feel betrayed.

Repossessions

Lack of co-ordination between lenders and local authorities is needlessly prolonging the agony of some families needing to be rehoused after their homes have been repossessed. A London Research Centre report this week said that nine out of ten local authorities received no advance notification

from lenders of households in their area threatened with repossession. The report accuses many lenders of not following guidelines laid down by the Council of Mortgage Lenders to warn local authorities if repossession may be necessary.

Many people facing repossession may have little or no contact with a local authority housing department before and will need reassurance and help. Authorities have an important role in offering debt counselling, or in some cases putting people on a mortgage rescue scheme to keep them in their homes, but say it is often too late when they discover repossession is imminent.

Just as worrying is the finding that in many cases lenders are not helpful to local authorities that approach them about arrears. The Council of Mortgage Lenders says that it was instrumental in setting up a working party with local authorities in June, but said it "wouldn't dispute that liaison was patchy. We are working hard to find good model notification arrangements." They need to make this a top priority.

'Cowboys' to be targeted in self-build sort-out

Last year 23,000

people built
their own homes.
Sara McConnell
looks at some
of the pitfalls



Home of their own: Carol and Simon Drury outside their home in Rochester, Kent

AS THE housing market continues its seemingly endless journey through the doldrums, the idea of buying a piece of land and building a house may seem an elaborate way of obtaining the right property when any buyer should be spoilt for choice in the traditional market.

In the boom years of the eighties, as prices rose out of many people's reach, building a home seemed to some to be the only way to obtain just the right homes in areas that they liked. Self-built houses can cost up to 40 per cent less than buying the existing equivalent. Even though traditional homes are now more affordable than they have been for years, there is still a steady stream of pioneers ready to break virgin ground. Last year, an estimated 23,000 people decided to ignore the glut of ready-built homes and strike out on their own. Figures from the National House-Building Council (NHBC) for the same year show a 4 per cent rise in value-added tax returns by self builders against a 6 per cent drop in the number of homes built by developers.

These people are prepared to put up with months, sometimes years, of upheaval, living in caravans on site, spending every weekend poring over plans, perhaps directing builders or even digging the foundations themselves.

They appear not to be put off by the fact that the home they are sweating over may now be depreciating faster than they can build it. On the contrary, say the organisers of this year's National Self Build Homes Show, to be held at London's Alexandra Palace between September 17 and 20, they should benefit from lower land prices. "As cash strapped developers sell off portions of their land banks to realise capital and decrease interest repayments on land reserves, so it is easier to find a plot to build on. Additionally, with fewer building contracts being awarded, more small builders and sub-contractors are available for work at increasingly competitive rates."

Being able to buy land and materials cheaper could help to offset any depreciation losses. However, those hoping to sell property to raise money

to build another one will have the same difficulty as anyone else. As they have to provide a larger deposit to get a self-build loan, this could cause problems.

The National Self Build Homes Show is hoping for 40,000 visitors, up on the 34,486 it attracted last year. The show will also see the public launch of the Individually-House Builders' Association, a trade association that aims to weed

out the "cowboys" from the industry and offer guidance on such subjects as finance, plot finding, and methods of construction to people building homes.

Ms Wendy, the association's chairman, said: "It has become apparent that at self-build shows there are companies with lovely sales brochures, but we know that they are just working out of a shed at the bottom of the garden. It is inevitable in a growing industry that there are cowboys, but people have no protection from them."

The NHBC intends to monitor potential members, asking for information on their company

background, products, services and guarantees. The association said: "Manufacturers must agree to independent inspection of their facilities and to name three future projects which can be monitored by the IHBA. Builders must be NHBC registered, give three customer references and name three future projects which the association can monitor: sub-contractors must give the names

of the architects or

NHBC builders who supervised work on their last three projects."

The association will also be publishing a directory of members next year.

These ill-fated group self-build schemes are still remembered with a shudder by those involved, particularly those lenders like National & Provincial, which had their fingers burnt.

Group self-build schemes were conceived during the housing boom, when people with different building and construction skills bought plots of land together and built houses. However, Stephen Bell, National & Provincial's development finance manager, said: "The value of the developments started to fall so that it was sometimes less than the cost of building. Then, if one of the group resigned, it meant the rest lost skills and it was difficult to find someone else."

The rest of the group also faced higher repayments as the loan was made to the group rather than individually. There had also been potential for abuse with speculative builders trying to sell on homes instead of living in them. Mr Bell said: "We wanted people who couldn't afford homes to build their own," he said.

Ms Wendy said there were also long-term plans to set up a bond scheme similar to that operated by the Association of British Travel Agents that

will double up as a guide to individual house building.

So far, the association has about 70 members, including lenders, such as the Abbey National, and companies marketing timber frame flat pack houses, such as Skandia-Hus and Potton.

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Pensions body proposes fairer deal

NAPF plans seek to avert poverty of divorced retirees

By LIZ DOLAN

FUNDAMENTAL changes to the income of divorced pensioners have been proposed by the National Association of Pension Funds.

In almost all cases, the proposals would help women substantially improve their position at the expense of their former husbands. Where women are the main wage earners at the time of the divorce, however, their husbands would benefit.

In a submission to a working party on pensions and divorce, set up under the auspices of the Pensions Management Institute, the association suggests divorcing couples should be able to divide the value of accrued pension rights equally.

The money must be used to buy new pension plans, a restriction designed to help reduce the poverty suffered by divorced women after they retire.

According to Robin Ellison, a pensions lawyer and member of the working party, more than one in eight women over 60 will be divorced by the year 2025, compared with 3 per cent in 1985.

The association is not suggesting that couples must always divide pension rights equally on divorce. It simply says the divorce settlement must leave each partner with the value of half the pension rights. For instance, if the family home and joint pension rights are of equal value, the wife may choose the former and the husband the latter.

Brian MacMahon, chairman of the association, denied that the pensions industry had been wrong-footed by the Conservatives' surprise election victory. However, he



Working women: June Bridgeman of the Equal Opportunities Commission

agreed the working party had been set up in response to a pre-election statement by the Labour party that the division of pension rights for divorcing couples would be addressed early on in the life of a Labour government.

Despite the popular conception that the pensions industry was a "take it or leave it" body, "our policies are driven by the needs of employees and their families," he said.

The PMI is chaired by a former permanent secretary at the social security department.

The association's submis-

sion is one of more than 100 under consideration by the group, which also includes representatives of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Law Society.

Mr MacMahon said that he saw no reason why the final institute recommendations should not gain favour with the government, because they were "a very useful, worthwhile social measure, and won't cost them anything".

June Bridgeman, deputy chairperson of the EOC, said: "There are now more women working in Britain than in any

other European country except Denmark, yet the vast majority still face poverty in retirement."

A report by the institute is due in the spring. Its proposals are likely to involve a change in the law.

Several pension funds are governed by rules that will not allow the transfer of pension rights to a third party. The legislation will have to be approved by several government departments, including the Inland Revenue, the DSS and the Lord Chancellor's Office.

Skipton Building Society has launched a mortgage

fixed at 9.25 per cent until September 30, 1993, then 10.2 per cent for the next two years. It is only available to borrowers who take out both buildings and contents insurance through the Skipton. The facility costs £150 to first-time buyers, who may borrow up to 95 per cent of the value of the property. Existing homeowners pay £295 for a maximum 90 per cent loan.

□ Family Assurance, the friendly society, has introduced a new tax-exempt family bond. The bond is a ten-year, unit-linked savings plan. Friendly society legislation means savers are not allowed to save more than £18 a month, or £200 a year. There is an annual management fee of 1.95 per cent, reducing to 0.75 per cent after ten years. Half of the first two years' contributions disappear in management charges, to reappear at the end of the policy in the form of a guaranteed minimum bonus.

□ People wishing to sell their partly-paid shares in regional electricity shares must do so by next Friday, September 4. Dealings after that date will be in the fully-paid form only. Norwich and Peterborough is offering to sell the shares for a minimum £15. Up to three other family members can sell their shares for an extra £2 apiece. The Skipton has two dealing services. The postal service costs £9, regardless of the total value of the shares. The telephone service, which is quicker, costs a minimum £15, plus a £5 "life-member" fee for first-time users.

□ Motorists could lose their no-claims discount, even if they are not at fault in an accident, because of the "knock-for-knock" agreement between insurers. The AA's insurance side says motorists should have made sure their policy included a claims recovery service. "Knock-for-knock" means each insurance company pays for damage to its own customer's vehicle, no matter who was at fault.

□ Newbury Building Society is offering a 1 per cent interest rate discount on loans where the borrower is able to contribute £40,000 or more to the total price of the property. Smaller discounts are available on equity contributions of £20,000 or more. The discount is available on loans below 75 per cent of the purchase price and is applied for the first year after completion.

BRIEFINGS

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Compounded Nominal rates	Interest rates	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
	25%	50%			
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c:	2.63	2.66	2.12	none/home	7 day
Typical					
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Bardsey	6.98	6.98	5.56	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-626 1567
•	7.22	7.22	5.78	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-626 1567
Lloyds	6.94	6.94	5.56	2,500-no max	8 mth Local Branch
Midland	6.89	6.89	5.51	10,000-no max	1 mth 0742 528655
•	7.22	7.22	5.78	10,000-no max	3 mth 0742 528655
NatWest	6.94	6.94	5.56	2,500-50,000	3 mth 071-725 1000
•	7.22	7.22	5.78	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-725 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Bank of Scotland NMC	8.49	8.68	5.34	2,500+	none 031-442 7777
Prudential A/c	5.79	5.91	4.78	2,500+	none 0604 252891
Co-operative	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000+	none 071 826 6243
Girobank	4.95	4.95	3.90	1,000+	none 051 965 2076
Lloyds HICA	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000+	none 0272 433372
Midland HICA	3.89	3.91	3.14	2,000+	none 0742 528655
Special Reserve	3.94	4.00	3.20	500+	none 0800 200 400
Royal Bank of Scotland A/c	4.50	4.56	3.66	2,000+	none 031-566 8555
TSB Bank	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000+	none 071-600 6000

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Ordinary Share A/c:	2.70	2.03	1.82	1+	none
Best buy — largest socs:					
Birmingham Mid	7.20	7.20	5.76	500 min	Postal
Bristol & West	6.18	6.18	5.54	25,000 min	Postal
Montgomery Rock	7.25	7.25	5.78	40,000 min	30 day
Skipton	6.05	6.06	4.45	50,000 min	90 day
Bradford & Bingley	7.88	7.88	6.30	30,000 min	1 year
Best buy — all socs:					
The Scarborough	7.50	7.50	6.10	250 min	Postal
Newcastle Rock	6.05	6.05	4.05	40,000 min	50 day
St Pancras	6.06	6.06	4.45	50,000 min	60 day
National Counties	7.73	7.73	6.18	20,000 min	90 day
Furness	6.03	6.03	4.42	50,000 min	1 year
Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Halifax	2.00	1.50	1.50	50 min	Rates rise
Mutual Life	2.44	2.44	1.95	25 min	with larger balances
Cash Plus	1.88	1.88	1.50	1 min	

Compiled by Chase de Volan Moneyline - call 071 404 5785 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Ordinary A/c	3.75	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 days 041-649-4555
Investment A/c	3.50	3.58	3.10	5-25,000	1 min 041-649-4555
Income Bond*	9.25	9.34	5.55	2,000-25,000	3 mth 0233 681557
First Opt Bond	7.75	7.75	6.20	1,000-250,000	041-649-4555
Second Opt Bond*	8.25	8.25	6.20	25,000-250,000	8 day 081-938 4800
Vicky Plan*	8.00	8.00	6.00	20-400,000	14 day 031-392 4300
Children's Bond	10.90	10.90	10.90		
Gen End Rater	5.01	5.01	5.01		
Capital Bond	10.75	10.88	6.45	100-100,000	8 days 041-649-4555

GUARDED INCOME BONDS

Figures from Chase de Volan Moneyline

Alto	8.70	8.70	7.40	50,000 min	1 yrs
Prudential A/c	8.50	8.50	6.20	50,000 min	2 yrs
Laurentian Life	8.50	8.50	7.22	50,000 min	2 yrs
Aegon Life	8.55	8.55	7.27	50,000 min	4 yrs
Laurentian Life	8.65	8.65	7.35	50,000 min	5 yrs

Holiday rates Spanish Pesetas: 175.50 French Francs: 90.00 German Mark: 320.00 Italian Lira: 2082.00

* 2.5% for balances below £500, 5% of interest on top line, instant access for withdrawals of £100 of minimum balance, increasing up to £10,000 for draws over £1000, no draw-out fees for cashing out certificates. ** Fix rate. *** Premium bonds paid gross 3% higher rates for larger sums. □ No longer on sale

Ombudsman attacks failure to explain schemes clearly



Platt: first annual report

31, fewer than 50 were passed on to Mr Platt.

Don Hall, the service's chief executive, is therefore well placed to set back Mr Platt's views. He said: "I have never seen an explanation booklet for employees that tells them exactly how the pension scheme works. I am sure it is not beyond the wit of the people who draft them to give some kind of simple explanation."

He said most complaints stemmed from misunderstanding how systems worked.

They should do everything possible to "get it right and get it on time". In the event of a delay, "a phone call or letter can work wonders". He added that transfer values from final-salary schemes were "notoriously misunderstood" and the pensions industry had to explain them better. In particular, he would welcome a standard warning on transfer quotations that the figure shown would hold only for a specified period.</p

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on the page and add these prices to your running total for the month and add them to the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it reaches £100 you have won outright a share of the £100,000 cash prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim process on the back of your card. You must always have a valid card when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Abbey Nat	Banks/Disc	-1
2	Menzies John	Drapery/Sts	-1
3	Siebe	Industrial	-1
4	Morkland	Breweries	-1
5	Honda Motor	Motors/Air	-1
6	Barr (AG)	Foods	-1
7	Nat Aust Bk	Banks/Disc	-1
8	Woodside	Oils/Gas	-1
9	GPR Ind	Building/Rds	-1
10	Santech	Paper/Print	-1
11	Northumbrian	Water	-1
12	Barumited Us	Transport	-1
13	Westpac	Banks/Disc	-1
14	Time Products	Drapery/Sts	-1
15	Fisons	Industrial	-1
16	Coni Stationery	Industrial	-1
17	Provident	Banks/Disc	-1
18	Blue Circle	Building/Rds	-1
19	Body Shop	Drapery/Sts	-1
20	Euro Disney	Leisure	-1
21	CIA Gp	Paper/Print	-1
22	Pilkington	Industrial	-1
23	RMC Gp	Building/Rds	-1
24	Morgan Cole	Industrial	-1
25	LASMO	Oils/Gas	-1
26	Johson Matth	Industrial	-1
27	Merkelire Mrc	Property	-1
28	Savem Train	Water	-1
29	Modest (J)	Building/Rds	-1
30	Aegis Gp	Paper/Print	-1
31	Ladbrooke	Hotels/Cat	-1
32	Laporte	Chem/Plas	-1
33	Messier Docks	Transport	-1
34	Brunhill	Industrial	-1
35	Rodland	Building/Rds	-1
36	Smith David	Paper/Print	-1
37	Thornes	Foods	-1
38	MERC	Property	-1
39	Vodafone	Electrical	-1
40	Adscene	Newspap./Pub	-1
41	Whitbread 'A'	Breweries	-1
42	Woolsey	Industrial	-1
43	P O Old	Transport	-1
44	Ashend	Building/Rds	-1

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT WEEKLY Total

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs S Barratt, of Surbiton; Ms C Antaki, of Loughton, and Mrs S Buckler of Shrewsbury, each receive £1,333.33.

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

BREWERIES

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

DRAPERY, STORES

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

ELECTRICALS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

FOODS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

INDUSTRIALS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

LEISURE

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

MINING

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

NEWS. PUBLISHERS

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

SHOES, LEATHER

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

TOBACCO

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

TRANSPORT

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

WATER

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

1992 High Low Company Price '91 +/- div % P/E

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1992

RUGBY UNION

Sevens kicks off with high-profile line-up

By ALAN LORIMER

LEST it be overlooked, 1992-3 is also a World Cup season. In April, Scotland will host the inaugural world sevens at Murrayfield and it is the relative imminence of this event that has prompted early action from the English and Scottish unions. Today, at Philiphaugh in the heart of the Scottish Border country, both England and Scotland will be represented at the Selkirk sevens, the traditional start to the Scottish season.

England, who are without Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott, have selected a squad drawn mainly from their B side, the one grand slam player from last season being Tim Rodber. Chris Sheasby, who has twice represented the Barbarians at Hong Kong sevens, will supply considerable experience and acumen to the forward trio, while, behind the scrum, Alan Buzzac and Phil de Glanville will each pose threats to the defences.

Scotland will field a squad containing players who performed well in the spring circuit last April. Among the backs there are Gregor Townsend and Ken Logan, both of whom toured Australia this summer, and from the forwards, there is experience in the shape of Brian Renwick, Kevin Armstrong and Adam Roxburgh.

Appealing though a Scotland v England final would be, in this CIS insurance-sponsored event, the prospect of such in a knock-out competition is by no means certain. England face Glasgow High/Kelvinside in the



Rodber: playing

Wales aiming to regain sparkle

By GERALD DAVIES

TODAY, we shall see whether the Welsh public, after a period of prolonged indifference and disengagement can resume its hitherto reluctant affair with sevens rugby. For the last 39 years, the premier competition in Wales has been known as the Snelling sevens, but will henceforth be known as the Worthington Welsh sevens.

This is not the only change. After having been staged in Newport for the last nine years, the competition returns this afternoon to its home of the previous 17, Cardiff.

Once up until the mid-1970s when Newport had dominated, 20,000 people would turn up. Last year, when Swansons won, barely a couple of thousand did, and why should they when the best players happily also stayed away. Apart from the early days, organisers have failed to create the festival atmosphere that had made sevens so congenial to spectators, at any rate in Scotland's Borders, and — if it is still there — at Twickenham in May.

Now that the new title suggests a more national competition, the organisers might make condition for entry less parochial. The present qualification is based on the former pre-Herkenier League, leading clubs. In future, it ought to be based on merit.

Tragedy in Masseter, Newport v Masseter, Newbridge v Cross Keys, Glanconen Wanderers v Penybont, Pontypridd v Penarth, and — if it is still there — at Twickenham in May.

SPORTS COUNCIL

Sport's output leaves the economy trailing

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE economic output of British sport outperformed the national economy as a whole between 1985 and 1990, a report, published by the Sports Council, stated yesterday.

The report showed that by the end of the 1980s, sport was more important than several areas of manufacturing, including the motor industry. During this five-year period, output increased by almost 50 percent and employment in the sector rose from £76,000 to £87,000.

The survey, carried out by the Henley Centre for Forecasting, stated that by 1990, the output of sports-related activity was £2.27 billion or 1.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). This is compared to the 1985 figure of £5.58 billion (in 1990 figures), equal to 1.4 percent of GDP.

Consumer spending on sports-related items amounted to £9.75 billion. Even if gambling is excluded, this still

and footwear (including cleaning and repairs) at £2.01 billion; sports goods and equipment, including boats, at £2.06 billion and sports participation, including skiing, at £1.61 billion.

Sir Peter Yarranton, the chairman of the Sports Council, said: "People have to realise that investment in sport is good for both the public and private sectors as well as for the country as a whole. Even relatively modest investment in this sector can produce excellent results."

The greatest concern of the council, the government-financed quango, was the provision of sports services by local authorities. "They remain the main providers of facilities in the country but this report shows that overall spending by local councils has been falling since 1985 to dangerously low levels," he said.

The Economic Impact of Sport in the United Kingdom, published by the Sports Coun-

Sayyedati receives classic encouragement from her stable companion's brave display



Thrilling duel: Love Of Silver, left, stays on stoutly to master the white-faced Dancing Bloom at Goodwood yesterday

Tenacious Love Of Silver cheers Brittain

By MICHAEL SEELEY

CLIVE Brittain and Michael Roberts received a tremendous boost for their 1993 classic hopes with Sayyedati when the champion jockey elect drove her stable Love Of Silver to a narrow defeat of the highly-regarded Dancing Bloom in the group three Butting Southcoast World Prestige Stakes at Goodwood yesterday.

"She's not within six lengths of the other filly," said a triumphant Brittain after recording his fifth win of the campaign. "But she's honest and tough. She is now likely to run in the Fillies' Mile at Ascot."

The winner of a three-race event at Haydock first out, Love Of Silver had subsequently finished a close fourth behind Mystic Goddess at Newmarket. "She raced on

Supported from 14-1 to 9-1 to continue her trainer's well-established and enviable practice of causing major upsets in high-class races, Ali Saeed Stoute's previously impressive Ascot winner by a neck, Afjan, finished one-and-a-half lengths away third.

Ribbonwood, a heavily-backed favourite at 11-8 after her five-length Newbury victory was a short head further away in fourth place.

The winner of a three-race event at Haydock first out, Love Of Silver had subsequently finished a close fourth behind Mystic Goddess at Newmarket. "She raced on

her own and found the ground too firm," the trainer added. "She's certainly appreciated the 'easier' surface today."

Robert, who showed he was back at his dynamic peak after an enforced rev by beating the redoubtable Lester Piggott in a close finish, is now relishing the prospect of riding Sayyedati and Lyric Fantasy in group one tests for fillies that lie ahead.

However, the jockey's fervent wish is that the first and second favourite for next spring's 1,000 Guineas will not be meeting in the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket on September 30.

First however, he is due to

partner Sayyedati in the seven-furlong Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh next Saturday.

"How could I desert Lyric Fantasy," he said. "But although it's not up to me, I hope they don't have to take each other on. They are so different. One has got pure speed. But with the other you're already thinking about seven furlongs and a mile and next season's classic races."

The defeat of Ribbonwood was naturally a major disappointment for John Gosden.

"She sweated up before-hand, pulled too hard in the race and wouldn't settle," said the trainer. "I don't like making excuses, but I'm sure she's much better than that. I think

the wisest course would be to put her away for the rest of the season."

However, the in-form trainer had better luck at Newmarket where Ray Cochrane rode Shaikh Mohammed's newcomer Emperor Jones to a highly convincing win in the Part of Tilbury Stakes.

Afterwards, Ladbrokes quoted 33-1 against the Dancing colt for next season's 2,000 Guineas. "I'd hope he'd be up to running in something like the Dewhurst Stakes in due course," Gosden said.

Later, Shaikh Mohammed completed a two-year-old double when Lost Soldier comfortably won the Blue Peter Stakes at Ascot.

Confident vote for O'Brien juvenile

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

PETER Chapple-Hyam, whose only two Irish runners so far this season have netted more than £250,000 in winning prize-money, will be testing the quality of the home two-year-olds in the £25,000 EBF Furry Stakes, a group three seven-furlong event at the Curragh tomorrow.

He is sending over Newton's Law, a beautifully-bred colt whose dam is a full-sister to the Derby winner Secreto. Newton's Law made his debut in the Deploy Acombs Stakes at York last week and made up a lot of ground from the rear of the field to finish fourth behind Woodstock.

There is clearly a good race to be won with Newton's Law, but he is up against it here as he takes on Vincent O'Brien's top juvenile Fatherland. Under the conditions, Fatherland has no penalty and he is confidently expected to make it three victories in a row.

At Leopardstown this afternoon, Poolea could end an expensive losing sequence in the Belgrave Stakes.

She has been in the frame in all her races since coming to this country to be trained by John Oxx.

Rizard has his first run since the spring in the Crofton EBF Race. He ran well in two good races in the early part of the year, being third here behind Brief Truce and before that failing by a head to give Silb to the Queen's Top Register in the White Rose Stakes at Ascot.

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4.00 TOTE CREDIT HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,654; 2m 1f 11yds) (5)

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2 443 GENTLE LAD 21 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-11-2 ... D J McNeil (7)
3 446 DELISH 12 (LS) P Hoban 6-11-2 ... J O'Brien
4 223 MIDWAY WIND 130 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... B Storey
5 202 UNFOLDED 11F (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... B Storey
7 404 DAHLIA 14 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-11-2 ... B Storey
8 400 THE PATTER'S MAGIC 12 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-11-2 ... D Smart
9 402 MARYLIE 15 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... D Smart
10 403 STYLISH 16 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... D Smart
11 405 DESERT LADY 15 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... D Smart
12 406 LOVE OF SILVER 16 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... D Smart
13 407 QUETTA'S GIRL 16 (200, FLS) D McNeil 6-10-4 ... D Smart
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Talented Selkirk set for rich consolation prize

SELKIRK is unquestionably the form horse for the group two *Beefeater Gin* Celebration Mile at Goodwood today.

Following that narrow defeat at the hands of Marling in the Sussex Stakes over today's course and distance late last month, I expect the Ian Balding-trained four-year-old to pick up this consolation prize that he so richly deserves.

After a bad run at Longchamp where there were valid excuses, that effort in the Sussex Stakes portrayed Selkirk at his best.

It was no disgrace to be beaten a head by a filly of the calibre of Marling, who had earlier won the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot and the Irish 1,000 Guineas, after looking unlucky not to win our Guineas.

Just how good that form was can be also gleaned by knowing that horses of the class of Second St. Sheikh Albadou and Sisketon were right behind Selkirk in third, fourth and fifth place that day.

Rudimentary, who finished only seventh on that occasion, reappears Selkirk now but with no apparent chance of winning since he was also beaten four-and-a-half lengths in third place behind my selection in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury in May.

Mystiko, who was even fur-

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

ther behind in fifth place that day, now makes a belated second appearance of the season. But the fact remains that the only place where he has won is Newmarket where he is trained.

When he won the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot last September, beating those talented fillies Kooyong and Shadai, Selkirk showed that he was entirely at ease on the son of ground that he will encounter today.

For the French challenger Steinbeck, though, any more rain would be a distinct inconvenience.

Last time out Steinbeck accounted for the useful Rainbow Corner in the Prix Daphnis at Evry where the conditions were to his liking.

Ahijaz, who represents John Dunlop in place of Flying Brave, will appreciate the run in the ground, having shown good form in the spring in Normandy where it was even softer underfoot.

Nevertheless, Selkirk still looks capable of initiating a double for his owner, the American George Strawbridge, and trainer Ian Balding.

ing, who can also saddle Li Welsh to win the Solent Maiden Stakes.

Li Welsh was a promising third on his debut in the race but by clearly talented colt Tenby over today's course and distance five weeks ago. Now he is preferred to Wootton Rivers, Ecu De France and Hostile Witness.

Today's meeting on the Sussex track begins with the March Stakes for which two St Leger acceptors, Rain Rider and Allegan, have been declared.

The last time that these two met was at Kempton in the

spring when Allegan beat Rain Rider by ten lengths.

In the meantime Rain Rider has won all his races; his most notable scalp being the subsequent Gordon and Great Voltigeur Stakes winner Bonny Scot at Newmarket.

Following a setback in training, Allegan is said to have been working well at Newmarket during his preparation for today's listed race, and he is preferred to his old rival now that he will be receiving 4lb from him.

Anglafid, my choice for the Sport On 5 Handicap, will enjoy being able to get his toe in the ground again.

At Newmarket, I give the Luca Cumani-trained Inner City a good chance of winning the Danepak Bacon Handicap even under top weight.

It was by under a neck and the same that he was beaten by Sharpitor and Alflora in the Scottish Classic at Ayr last time out and that form has held up well since with the first and second running well at Deauville and York respectively.

Today's nap though is Wainwright to account for Talb in the Stanley House Maiden Stakes at Newmarket following a particularly promising piece of work at home with his talented stable companion Pollen Count.

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Pakistanis put on a carefree face

By PETER BALL

WHILE Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis claimed vindication and consulted their lawyers, and the storm over the condition of the ball used in the one-day international at Lord's blew itself out in a cloud of obfuscation, the rest of the Pakistani team casually whiled away the last hours of their last match at Scarborough apparently without a care in the world. If they were a team under siege, they gave little indication of it.

Neither was there much evidence that anyone was giving much thought to the cricket. Shoaib, the Pakistanis' fifth-choice captain, and Richie Richardson, the World XI captain, made no attempt to prevent the match meandering to a draw.

A small festival crowd

seemed unconcerned, enjoying the fireworks from Peter Sleight and cameos from Phil Simmons and Roger Harper as the Pakistanis used ten bowlers. Only some excited appealing revealed that the team was present in spirit as well as body, but there was no suggestion that their minds were on weightier matters.

The boys aren't even aware of what's going on," Intikhab Alam, the team manager, said when the news of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision was relayed to him. "They're not interested in what's happening because they know they have done nothing wrong."

Even the failure of the ICC to clear the Pakistanis of the charge of altering the ball by saying it was done under law 5, which the tour manager, Khalid Mahmood, had de-

manded at the beginning of the week, did nothing to shake their composure. "I have no doubt in my mind that we are not the guilty party at all," Intikhab said.

"The ball was changed, and that's it. I still believe it was changed under law 5. I can assure you we haven't done anything. I am very confident and very proud of these boys."

"These accusations have been going on for some time now, but it is just sour grapes. Wasim and Waqar are not just ordinary bowlers, and to take something away from them is very unfair."

That line was taken up by Aqib, the only one of the three Test seam bowlers playing yesterday. After a short spell under scudding clouds in the morning, Aqib came off and changed before adding his words of support to his bowl-

ing colleagues. "I've shared the same ball all summer, and if their success has been down to the ball, why haven't I produced the same results? I'm not as fast as they are, but I am very accurate, so if I had their degree of swing I'd be lethal. But I haven't," he said.

"The only answer is that I'm not in the same class. Their wickets are solely down ability. If people say it is down to the ball rather than the bowler, I'd like to put that to the test. Scuff it up in the way we are supposed to have done and give it to Devon Malcolm, and I'll bet £1,000 he doesn't get anything like the same result as Wasim and Waqar have done."

Pakistan depart this morning for a one-day game in Amsterdam before going their separate ways at the beginning of next week.



Aqib lends support

Ball examination 'revealed evidence of tampering'

By SIMON WILDE

ONE man, it transpired yesterday, has managed to penetrate the cloak of secrecy that has surrounded the allegations of Pakistani ball-tampering during this summer's Test series.

Last month, during the fourth Test match at Headingly, Richard Hutton, the former England all-rounder, asked to see — and was shown by one of the umpires — the ball with which Waqar Younis destroyed the England batting with a spell of five wickets for 18 in eight overs on the third day.

"On examination," Hutton said, "the ball contained countless small abrasions, where the outer skin had disappeared, alongside the

seam on one side. The overall roughness contrasted sharply with the smoothness of the conventionally polished other half of the ball. In my opinion the damage had been caused by a fingernail. It was not attributable to constant friction on the ground or with the boundary fence."

England unexpectedly collapsed in their first innings from 292 for two to 320 all out, losing their last eight wickets in 16 overs. Before his five-wicket spell, Waqar had figures of nought for 99 from 22 overs. When England batted again, chasing 99 to win, Pakistan opted to continue using the first-innings ball, which was 114 overs old. Waqar, who is normally first

change, opened the bowling with Wasim Akram and took two early wickets, but England went on to win the match by six wickets.

Hutton, the editor of *The Cricketer* magazine, declined to say which of the umpires, Mervyn Kitchen and Ken Palmer, allowed him to see the ball. He said that he wanted to photograph the ball but was refused permission by the official.

Hutton said his suspicions had been aroused during the series by "idle chat with umpires and others in authority in the game". He added: "A ball that swings more and more as it gets older and older is acting against the laws of nature."

Taylor makes short work of Middlesex resistance

By IVO TENNANT

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire (22pts) beat Middlesex (4) by an innings and three runs

IT TOOK Northamptonshire effectively one-and-a-half days of a scheduled four-day match to beat Middlesex by an innings, a victory that takes them into second place in the championship table. They achieved this through Paul Taylor taking ten for 54 in the match, the best figures of his career. There was some crass batting, but this was markedly hostile bowling.

Taylor is 28 and in only his second season with Northamptonshire, after two unfruitful years with Derbyshire and some Minor Counties cricket. His age might preclude him from selection for an England A tour, but not his ability. His five wickets yesterday were taken in one spell of telling left-arm medium pace.

For all that, there was no greater applause all day than when Lamb came in to bat. Northamptonshire's members empathised with him. For every Pakistani who had rung the club in the last two days, there has been a message of support. Graffiti is now an art form in Northampton. The secretary, one needs hardly add, had their fill of it.

Lamb's innings was a curiously muted affair, lasting 64 minutes and producing 13 runs, even if he did have his mind on other concerns. So, seemingly, did the rest of the middle order. Having been 137 for one, Northamptonshire mustered no more than 203. Williams taking five wickets for eight runs in 29 balls.

Given that Middlesex batted with still less distinction, this scarcely mattered. Yet Fordham and Cook deserved

better. Their partnership of 101 in 31 overs was riches compared to everything that followed, although it hardly seemed so at the time. Or perhaps it was merely that Lamb was the focus of greater attention.

Fordham's innings of 91 was far and away the best of the match. At times he could pass for Geoff Cook, his worthy predecessor, in the way in which he works the ball around the wicket. There was nothing showy about his batting, but it was sufficiently compact to take him past 1,500 runs for the season.

Northamptonshire, then, had a first-innings lead of 118. There was no accountable reason for their collapse, just as there was not for that of Middlesex. This had much more to do with Taylor's maintenance of an excellent line and ability to alternate an in-swing with his natural slant across the batsman than to anything in the pitch.

There was no inkling of what was to come as Rosebery and Haynes put on 24 for the first wicket. Then the former went through edging one that left him and getting, having survived a pair, was leg-before offering no shot at Capel. It was an acute reminder of his affection of old in Test cricket.

Haines and Carr also went leg-before to Taylor, one choosing the wrong line and the other beaten on the back foot by another in-swinger. Brown went flicking at one down the leg side and Emburey was bowled looking to play one of his unique squeezed cover drives.

Ramprakash, having had his off ball clipped by Capel, Middlesex were, almost unbelievably, 36 for seven. There was no way back from that.

Kent put themselves in strong position

By RICHARD STREETON

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Gloucestershire (22pts) won by nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 304 runs to beat Kent

GLOUCESTERSHIRE were left to make 398 yesterday to win this match, and though the pitch remains friendly, Kent have surely put themselves beyond defeat. By winning this match and their final two fixtures, they could still take second place in Essex in the championship and earn £23,000 prize-money.

There were 48 overs left when Gloucestershire set out on their marathon climb, and disciplined batting by Hodgson and Scott established the only pattern open to them. The score was 51 before Hodgson hit the first four of the innings. Soon afterwards he risked a sweep against Davis and was caught at short backward square-leg. Alleyne dropped anchor with Scott before bad light brought the close ten overs early.

Kent, resuming at 164 for three, stretched their runnings until half past three with nearly everyone helping to put the match beyond Gloucestershire's reach. Hooper, Fleming and Marsh led the way with contrasting half-centuries on a slow pitch from which all assistance for the bowlers had



Launching pad: Pringle dispatches the ball square on the way to a fine century for Essex at Hove yesterday

Pringle furthers Essex's cause

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HOVE (third day of four): Sussex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 164 runs behind Essex

RAIN has pattered the equivalent of a day's play from this match but it remains intriguingly alive. Essex, who spread their first innings over three days, have to thank centuries from Jonathan Lewis and Derek Pringle for a lead of 201 and, no matter what happens at Canterbury, they can secure the title on bonus points alone if they finish off Sussex.

No county side is more familiar than Essex with the art of putting trophies in the cabinet but there is a sense of wonderment in the camp that they stand on the brink of another championship after a summer in which they have seldom been able to put their best side in the field or, if

follows them their most convincing cricket.

Take yesterday. Having included an extra bowler and then lost one of their five specialist batsmen, Hussain, with his second broken finger of the season, Essex were not as happily placed as their overnight 195 for two suggested.

Indeed, when Stephenson's first and liveliest burst of the day reduced them to 209 for four, effectively five, Sussex would have fancied they were back in the match.

Pringle, attempting to drive on the up, was well caught by Speight low down and, Garnham and Lewis

had to work hard to keep him to what, these days, is a rare sighting of the slow, looping yorker with which Stephenson claimed so many wickets for Nottinghamshire.

Enter Pringle, the last man in the side with any pretensions to batting. He has it in

him to belief this, of course, and for a time against the luckless Salisbury, he did so. But gradually, in company with the correct and resolute Lewis, Pringle asserted himself, even smiling two sets as he carried the Essex lead from merely useful to intimidating.

Lewis had spent 20 minutes on 91 and went into lunch still a nervy five short of a first century since his debut two years ago. He got there, in four-and-a-half hours, with a square cut four against Stephenson. He proceeded to bowl in low gear but with no sign of stalling to 133.

He was out in what had long since seemed the way he might go; run out. Pringle refused a second to long leg and Lenham's return was gathered by Moores, who threw down the stumps at the bowler's end. Hall three overs from last night's close.

When Topley swatted to square-leg and Lenham's opening over had Hott leg-before, Essex looked on the point of expiring. Instead, there was the improbable sight of 12 overs bating by Stumpie, who was only seven short of his career-best.

Such was eventually stumped off Salisbury, he did so. But gradually, in company with the correct and resolute Lewis, Pringle asserted himself, even smiling two sets as he carried the Essex lead from merely useful to intimidating.

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He was out in what had long since seemed the way he might go; run out. Pringle refused a second to long leg and Lenham's return was gathered by Moores, who will now look to their spin bowlers to complete victory today. Childs gave them a start by removing Hall three overs from last night's close.

Accept defeat and smile? Why, it's simply not cricket

WHAT are the two commonest sounds in sport? The whinge of the defeated athlete and the silence of the official. Once again the combination of the two brings us to the verge of a diplomatic incident.

Was ever thus. The longest whinge in the history of sport is unquestionably the Bodyline tour 60 years from 1932 to the present day, and still the Australians whinge. True, this was nothing like as ferocious as the assault on England and West Indies by the Australian fast bowlers, Lillee and Thomson, in the Seventies, but when did facts ever get in the way of a good sporting whinge?

Here is another often-foreshadowed point: England did not win the World Cup in 1966. The international whinge about the ex-robust play of Nobby Stiles, the England enforcer, is still patterning away. Stiles cheated, the non-English world will tell you. What is more, England cheated by playing all their matches at Wembley, and anyway, was never their goal, despite the Russian fission?

People still whinge about the West Indies cricket team of the Eighties, and the invention in the wake of defeat by Lillee and Thomson of the four-man fast bowing attack. Such, were altogether too fast and too accurate. Not fair.

Since then, England have lined up with four fast bowlers themselves, and England quickies have hit many a batsman. But they have failed to conquer the cricketing world. The reason for West Indian success, much glossed over, is that West Indies had not the most brutal, but the very best bowlers in the world at that time.

Another nation, another whinge. If the England cricketers lose the winter series against India, rest assured, it will either be because of bent umptiring or Indian food, or both. And of course, Pakistan beat England in the Test series this summer because they cheated. The fact that they have the two best bowlers in the world has nothing to do with it, of course.

Of course, everyone knows that ball-doctoring is as much a part of English cricket as the tea interval. But the English prefer to reduce the greatest bowlers in the world to gallingly mere slight-of-hand conjurers, wily oriental geese. England were not defeated. England were ticked.

Heighto. Cricket is especially prone to such whinges. The reason is simplicity itself: Test cricket is played between the old colonies and their former master.

Without a shared history — a history that includes racism, slavery, warfare, conquest and exploitation — no Test match would ever take place. The remarkable thing about international cricket is not that it provokes so many poisonous rows, it is that it takes place at all.

Allan Lamb poses as the public-spirited man for "blowing the whistle" on Pakistan, but the truth is that he is just another whinge in a long line of whinging losers.

From every nation and from every sport come a long, sullen, shuffling line, the racists, the bullies, and the bruisers, the wilting and the demoralised, the rabblerous and the scandal-mongers, the defeated and above all, the resentful. It is an endless procession that stretches back from the present day as far as the dawn of sport.

Northants v Middx

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four): Northamptonshire (22pts) beat Middlesex (4) by an innings and three runs

MIDDLESEX First Innings by 247 for 202, 2nd Innings by 211 for 113, Total 458, Northants 451 for 202, Total 461

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-66, 2-100, 3-103, 4-104, 5-105, 6-106, 7-107, 8-108, 9-109, 10-110, 11-111, 12-112, 13-113, 14-114, 15-115, 16-116, 17-117, 18-118, 19-119, 20-120, 21-121, 22-122, 23-123, 24-124, 25-125, 26-126, 27-127, 28-128, 29-129, 30-130, 31-131, 32-132, 33-133, 34-134, 35-135, 36-136, 37-137, 38-138, 39-139, 40-140, 41-141, 42-142, 43-143, 44-144, 45-145, 46-146, 47-147, 48-148, 49-149, 50-150, 51-151, 52-152, 53-153, 54-154, 55-155, 56-156, 57-157, 58-158, 59-159, 60-160, 61-161, 62-162, 63-163, 64-164, 65-165, 66-166, 67-167, 68-168, 69-169, 70-170, 71-171, 72-172, 73-173, 74-174, 75-175, 76-176, 77-177, 78-178, 79-179, 80-180, 81-181, 82-182, 83-183, 84-184, 85-185, 86-186, 87-187, 88-188, 89-189, 90-190, 91-191, 92-192, 93-193, 94-194, 95-195, 96-196, 97-197, 98-198, 99-199, 100-200, 101-201, 102-202, 103-203, 104-204, 105-205, 106-206, 107-207, 108-208, 109-209, 110-210, 111-211, 112-212, 113-213, 114-214, 115-215, 116-216, 117-217, 118-218, 119-219, 120-220, 121-221, 122-222, 123-223, 124-224, 125-225, 126-226, 127-227, 128-228, 129-229, 130-230, 131-231, 132-232, 133-233, 134-234, 135-235, 136-236, 137-237, 138-238, 139-239, 140-240, 141-241, 142

SATURDAY AUGUST 29 1992

Pakistanis claim vindication

ICC washes its hands over ball controversy

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CLINGING desperately to the nannyish philosophy of least said soonest mended, the International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday declared that details of the issue which has been gripping the cricket world all week are not fit for public consumption.

Five days after they could, and should, have headed off all repercussions with a simple explanation of why the ball was changed in the one-day international at Lord's on Sunday, the ICC issued a three-sentence statement of breathtaking arrogance.

Lt-Col John Stephenson, the secretary, finally cleared his office of solicitors long enough to reach the fax machine and release the words the game has awaited with rising impatience. He then showed a fine sense of judgment by immediately leaving Lord's for a short holiday.

The non-statement reads: "I have decided not to make any further statement concerning the change of ball during the lunch interval at Lord's on Sunday. Umpires' reports are, and always have been, treated as strictly confidential and after careful consideration I have concluded that the same should apply to the match referee's report. The umpires' decision is final, therefore so

far as the ICC is concerned the matter is closed."

The ICC may have washed its hands of the controversy but it will not find many to share its cosy view. The Pakistanis believe they have been vindicated and an immediate statement from Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, alleging "smears, innuendo and untruths", confirmed that they will be proceeding with legal action on several fronts.

This morning, the touring side leaves England and, for a team which has produced some scintillating cricket and won a Test series entirely on merit, it is the greatest pity that many in the game will be relieved to see the back of them.

For the players of this country, it is neither enlightening nor offensive if the Pakistanis have tampered with a cricket ball, for there are few playing who would put hand on heart and say they have never broken the laws in a similar or related way. What have caused increasing annoyance are the Pakistani protestations of angelic behaviour and their willingness to drag the game into murky legal alleyways.

There was no comment yesterday from the Test and County Cricket Board, but it was not inactive. Alan Smith,

the chief executive, was busy on the fax machine, too, instructing every player and umpire that their contracts prohibit them from speaking to the press — all part of a comprehensive cover-up, of course, but about as useful as a motorist insuring his car the day after he has crashed it.

Too much has already been written and spoken about the events in the pavilion on Sunday for anyone to be remotely deflected by a series of "no comments".

Unforgivably, the ICC has handed over the high ground in this sorry saga to the solicitors who have harassed and impaled all week. Equally unforgivably, Pakistan have abused their membership of the ICC by applying such blatant legal pressure to the constitution and proper running of the body.

It has been a shameful week for cricket, from which nobody involved has emerged well. We are now asked to believe that we shall never know the true facts of the controversy, but there is actually no possible doubt as to what occurred.

I understand that the umpires, Ken Palmer and John Hampshire, went to the England dressing-room during the fateful lunch interval and reported to the captain, Graham Gooch, that the ball had been changed because they considered it had been tampered with. Pakistan's officials had already been apprised of this in the referee's room.

The position of the umpires is not a comfortable one, for the long silence and subsequent lack of clarification has implicitly cast doubt on the validity or correctness of their actions. For this, Deryck Murray, the ICC match referee, must be held entirely responsible. Having decided to make public that the ball change had occurred, it was his duty to protect and support the umpires by explaining why.

The delay has been directly responsible for the embarrassing conclusion to the affair. Lawyers acting for the Pakistanis seized on a technicality of the issue, believed to relate to the condition of the ball issued as a substitute.

The playing conditions for the summer, at variance with the laws of cricket, state that it should have been of "much inferior condition" to the original. If it was not, mistakenly or otherwise, the claim could have been made that law 5, relating to the ball being damaged by natural causes, must have been the one implemented.

The ball at the centre of the argument, meanwhile, is under lock and key at Lord's, where it will apparently stay, away from prying eyes, unless it is necessary to produce it as Exhibit A in any subsequent case.

"Cricket should be played very hard, but it should be played fairly, it should be equal for everybody, and be decided by your ability, your



Richardson: backing ICC

Postmen deliver for Paralympics

By ALEX RAMSAY

THE British Paralympic team left for Barcelona yesterday to put finishing touches to its preparations for the Games beginning on Thursday. The athletes were helped on their way by a £250,000 donation from the Royal Mail, money raised by the company's employees throughout the country.

In all, 206 British athletes will compete against representatives from 94 countries and the team has realistic hopes of bettering its tally of 179 medals won in Seoul in 1988.

Morale is high in the team. After many squad meetings and training weekends the disparate groups from the various sports and disability classifications have come to know and support each other. One of the most experienced members of the team is Noel Tharcher, although he is only 26. "It's just starting to hit us now that we're on our way," he

Disabled take a dim view

FOOTBALL supporters are, more or less by definition, loyal and long-suffering Quadruplets that for disabled supporters. A recent survey (*On the Sidelines*, commissioned by the Football Stadia Advisory Design Council) shows that even today, in a supposedly healthier climate, disabled supporters must arrive with them most," he said. "Just advising them what it's like to sit in the call-up room alongside your biggest rival before a race makes a difference."

Tharcher, together with Anthony Howard and Robert Matthews, will be aiming for a clean sweep in blind middle distance running. The three 1,500 metre finals for the three sight categories are scheduled within 20 minutes of one another. "I was the only one who got it wrong in Seoul," Tharcher said. "We aim to get it right this time."

pool's originally had a capacity of 46,000, you must offer 460 seats to the disabled. Liverpool have a total of 17,000 through rebuilding continues.

Positive note: Millwall, building their new stadium before the latest regulations, are going for a 20,000 capacity with 180 wheelchair places. Negative note: many clubs have a long way to go. This is a question, not merely of facilities, but of attitude.

Right to fight
I went to a marketing scam last night and an ice hockey match broke out. Yes, shock horror and surprise-surprise. North America's National Hockey League has made the revolutionary move not to ban fighting. At the summer meeting in Florida, team owners had the chance to grasp the nettle and make their sport sensible instead they have come up with a "compromise". "The spontaneous fight was the only thing I was trying to protect," said Pat Quinn, president of the Vancouver Canucks. "For example, if you were to build a stadium that, like Liver-

pool's, originally had a capacity of 46,000, you must offer 460 seats to the disabled. Liverpool have a total of 17,000 through rebuilding continues.

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Pause for thought: Ayrton Senna, above, had plenty to ponder at the Spa Francorchamps circuit yesterday. He finished second in qualifying for the Belgian Formula One grand prix, being held tomorrow, two seconds behind Nigel Mansell and a second ahead of Mansell's team-mate, Rocco Patrese, announced he was withdrawing his intentions to drive for Williams-Renault and even had time to show another side of his persona. Erik Comas, the French driver, had spun his Ligier-Renault off the track and hit a crash barrier. Senna, who was following, saw Comas

slumped in his seat, apparently hurt and unconscious. The Brazilian stopped immediately and ran back up the track to help. He did so at great personal risk, with cars roaring by and debris littered over the circuit, and showed courage, risking serious injury. It transpired that Comas was badly concussed and he was later released from hospital. Senna's decision to abandon his move to drive for Williams opens the way for Mansell and Alain Prost to fill the team's two positions.

Race preview, page 28

Chesney takes on Derby jinx

By JENNY MACARTHUR

JESSICA Chesney, of Ireland, riding Diamond Exchange, achieved the biggest win of her career yesterday in the Silk Cut Derby Trial at Hickstead, a qualifying competition for Nick Skelton's former mare, Blue Bird, to take third place.

Despite the jinx, Chesney was optimistic about her chances tomorrow. "Diamond Exchange is a bit of an individual but he is at his best in a big arena like Hickstead.

Everyone said to me before the jump-off: 'Whatever you do don't win — otherwise you are jinxed for the Derby,'" Chesney, 22, said. Only one rider, Eddie Macken, on Bonner, won both competitions.

The magnificent Diamond Exchange, a nine-year-old son of Diamond Serpent, had other ideas. Going third in the five-horse jump-off, he made light of the sticky, dead ground to produce the only clear round.

John and Michael Whitaker, two of the favourites for the £35,000 first prize tomorrow, both showed good form yesterday. John, in addition to finishing as the runner-up, was also fifth, on Henderson Hopscotch.

Michael, attempting a second successive win on Henderson Monsanta, in the Derby, gave a convincing performance, with four faults.

Poppy, who started riding only seven years ago, at 17, will not ride Blue Bird tomorrow, despite her third place yesterday. "She is only seven and I don't want to frighten her," he said. Instead, he will ride Capone, on which he achieved a clear double clear round in the Nations Cup.

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SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Today is the biggest day in football's year: the day of the FA Cup preliminary round. Among the major fixtures of the round are Stewart and Lloyds v Evesham, Burnham v Canvey Island, Shortwood v Brockenhurst, Cinderford v Newbury, Sholing v Bemerton Heath, and Torringdon v Bideford. Mighty Redhill, the team I covered when I worked on local papers, has a visit from Boreham Wood: Wembley and destiny beckon.

Love hurts

"My wish is that we love one another," Don King, the boxing promoter who looks like a negative of Ludwig van Beethoven, said on his 61st birthday this week. "That we put aside hostility and divisiveness." He then went on to see Razor Ruddock for \$35 million. Ruddock has allegedly walked out on a contract to see Lennox Lewis in October. "I took the guy from the point of a loser," King said. "I can make losing winning."

SELLAWAY

Sheringham seeks goal in Spurs debut

By CLIVE WHITE

TEDDY Sheringham breezed into Tottenham Hotspur football club yesterday like the breath of fresh air, so desperately needs following its dismal start to the season. The former Millwall favourite declared that his aim was to make an impact straight away by scoring on his debut against Ipswich Town in the BSkyB live match at Portman Road tomorrow.

Sheringham professed to be unconcerned about the size of his £2.1 million transfer from Nottingham Forest, which was completed, after much toing and froing between the clubs, when he signed a four-year contract before the noon deadline yesterday. "It is not much more than what Forest paid for me last year — in any case, the transfer market has gone a bit crazy, with almost every player costing £2 million or more."

While the signing of a goalscorer would not appear to be the answer to Tottenham's perennial problem in central defence, as amplified by Leeds United's thumping 5-0 win over them in mid-week, it should, nevertheless, give a boost to a side still looking for their first win.

"I'm aiming to get a goal on my debut because it's been a long two or three weeks since the transfer was mentioned," he said. "It's a great move for me, though to be fair I was never desperate to get back to London."

Sheringham described his first training session with Tottenham as "a great shock". "That is the most training I have done in 18 months," he said